1
Tokyo
TARAREBA
GIRLS
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

Tokyo
TARAREBA
GIRLS
1
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

ACT 1 THE WHAT-IF GIRLS 003

ACT 2 THE WHAT-IF GIRLS AND THE BLONDE MAN 045

ACT 3 HONEY TOAST WOMAN 085

ACT 4 THE WOMAN WITH SAVINGS AND THE YOUNGER MAN 127

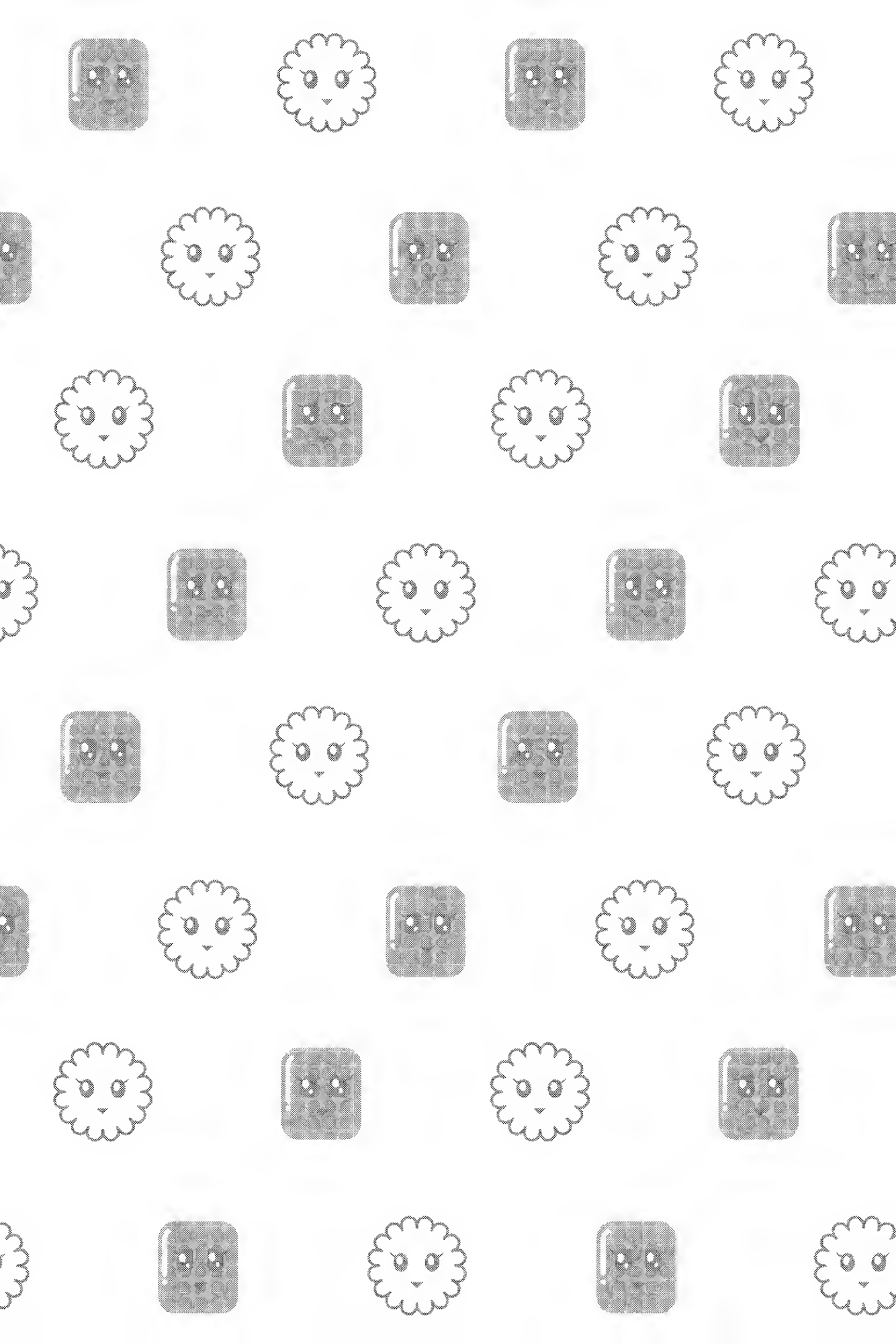
ACT Ex BONUS STORY 167

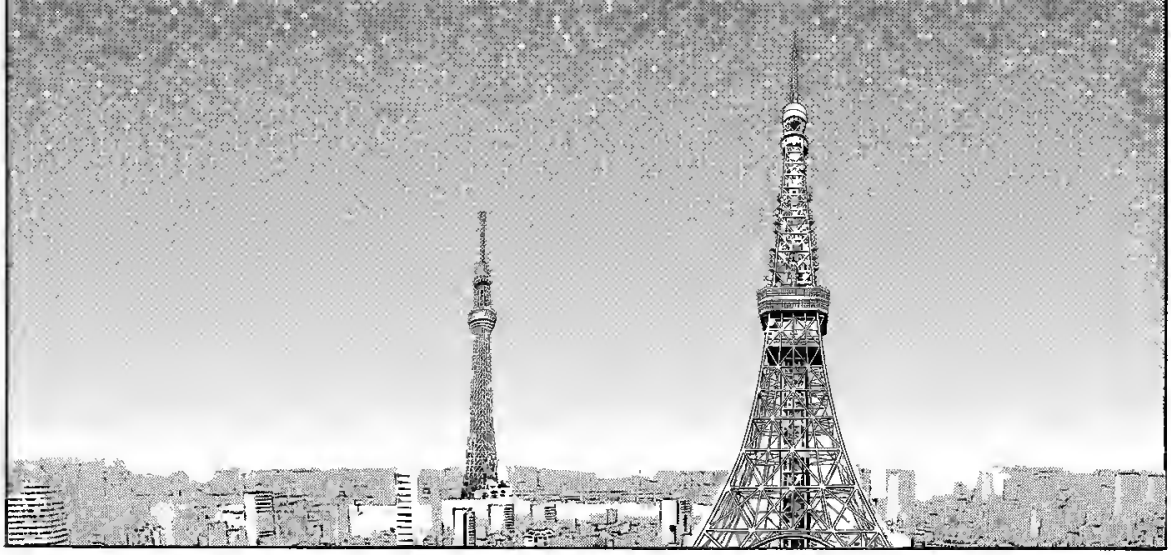
I SPENT ALL MY TIME WONDERING "WHAT IF," THEN ONE DAY I WOKE UP AND I WAS 33.

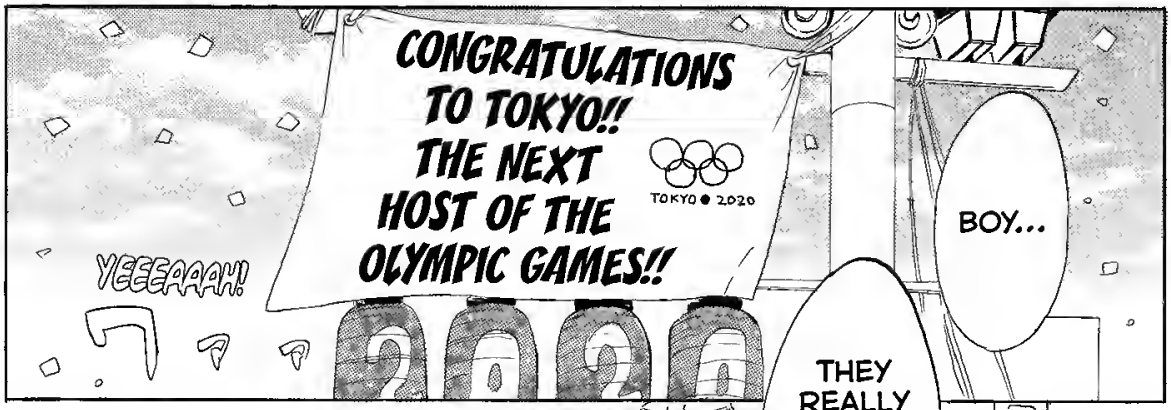
ACT
1
THE WHAT-IF GIRLS
Choose Me!

Choose
Me!

ACT
1
THE WHAT-IF GIRLS






CONGRATULATIONS TO TOKYO!! THE NEXT HOST OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES!!
TOKYO 2020
YEEEAAAH!
2020
BOY...
THEY REALLY WENT AND DID IT...

TOKYO'S GOING TO HOST THE OLYMPICS.

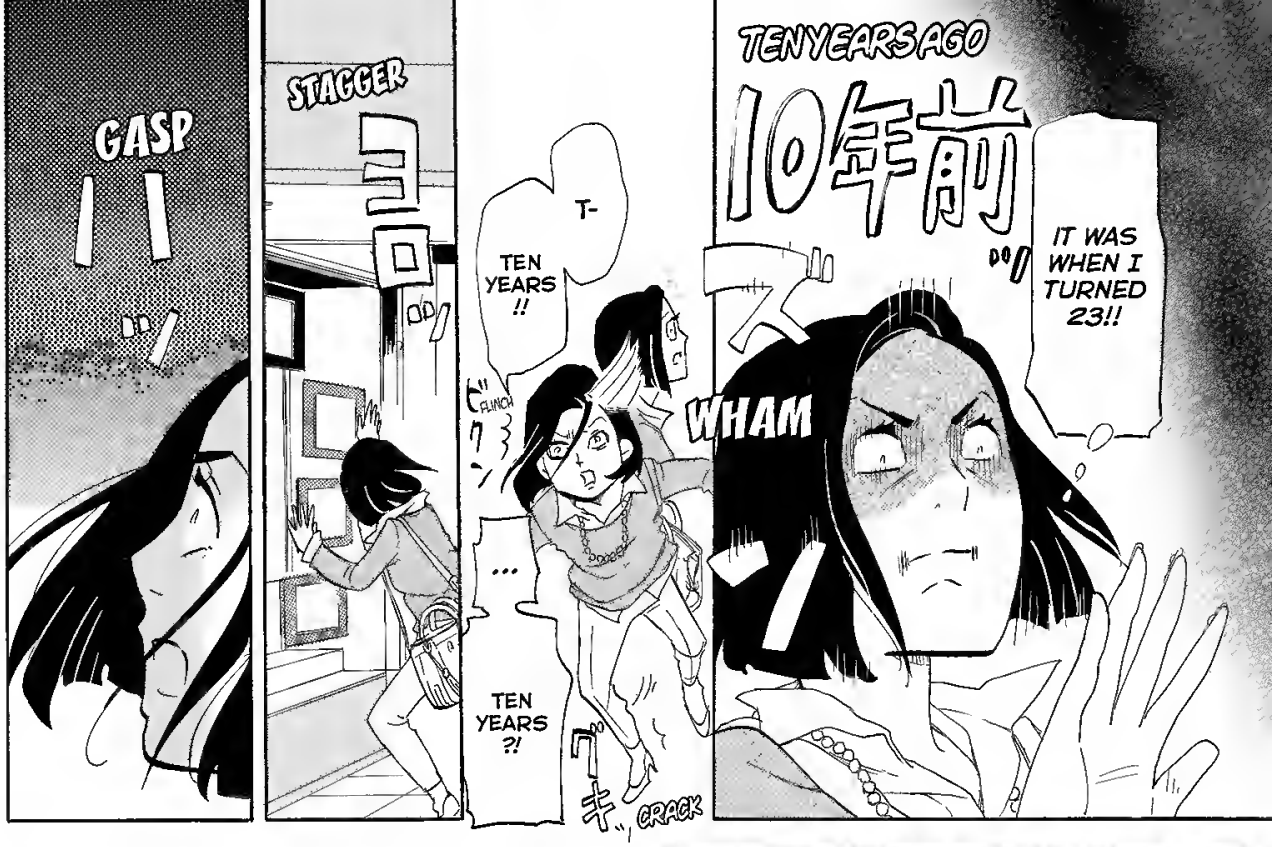
RINKO ...?
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!

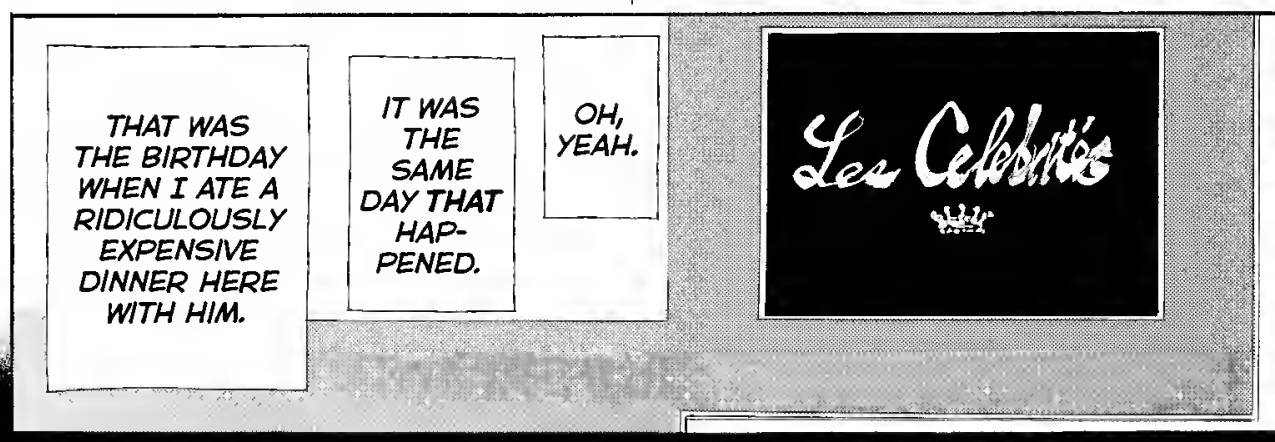
SILENCE

COST OF THE EXTRA-RHINESTONE SPARKLING NAIL MANICURE FOR BOTH HANDS, PURCHASED TO CELEBRATE MY COMING 33RD BIRTHDAY: 30,000.*
*about $300

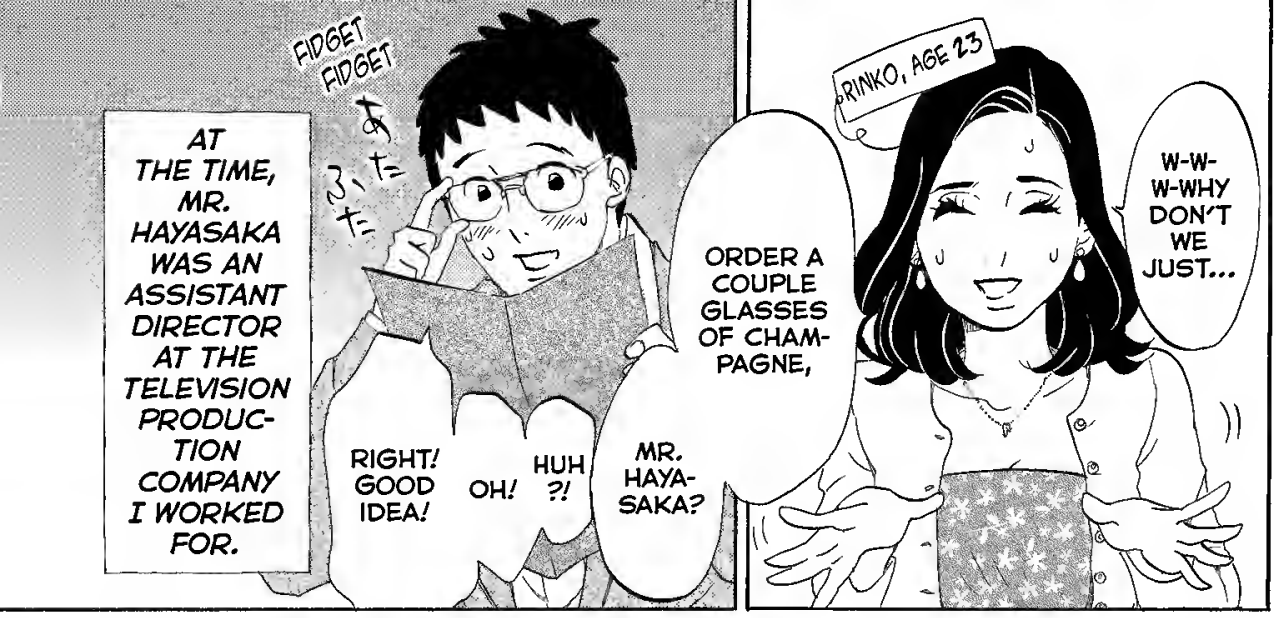
WE'LL DEFINITELY BE MARRIED BY THEN!
Time Left Until the Tokyo Olympics:
2313 days
FOR SURE!
TOKYO 2020

Omotesando Station
WOW ...
KAORI REALLY LAID THEM ON THICK...
KAORI HAS BEEN ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL ...
SHE RUNS A NAIL SALON NEAR OMOTE-SANDO.
SHE'S GORGEOUS, WITH A GREAT BODY, BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE'S STILL SINGLE.
AND FOR SOME OTHER REASON, IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS SINCE SHE EVEN HAD A BOYFRIEND.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...THE FIRST TIME KAORI DID MY NAILS WAS ALSO ON MY BIRTHDAY.
HMM?
WHEN WAS THAT?
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS RIGHT AFTER WE GRAD-UATED COLLEGE ...
HUH ?!


GASP
STAGGER
TEN YEARS AGO
10年前
IT WAS WHEN I TURNED 23!!
T-
TEN YEARS !!
FLINCH
WHAM
...
TEN YEARS ?!
CRACK

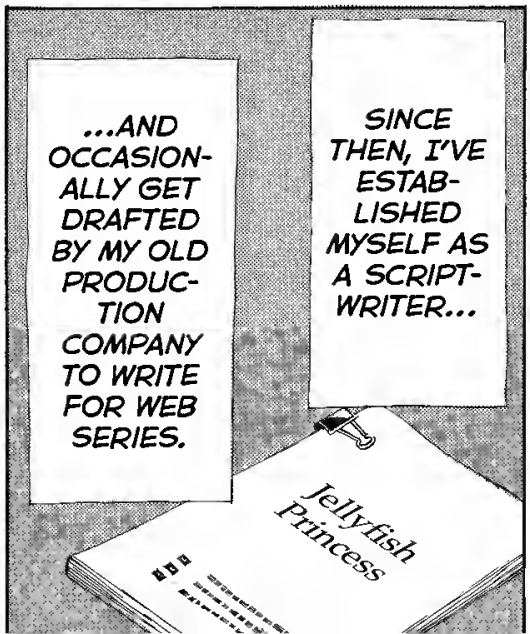

THAT WAS THE BIRTHDAY WHEN I ATE A RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE DINNER HERE WITH HIM.
IT WAS THE SAME DAY THAT HAP-PENED.
OH, YEAH.
Les Celebrités

I GUESS WE'LL GO WITH ...
THE CHEAPEST ONE...
HUH ?!
THE WINE ...
I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WINE...
UM...


RINKO, AGE 23
W-W-W-WHY DON'T WE JUST...
ORDER A COUPLE GLASSES OF CHAMPAGNE,
MR. HAYASAKA?
HUH?!
OH!
RIGHT! GOOD IDEA!
FIDGET FIDGET
あたふた
AT THE TIME, MR. HAYASAKA WAS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AT THE TELEVISION PRODUCTION COMPANY I WORKED FOR.

HE WAS A KIND, SWEET PERSON, BUT HE DRESSED SHABBILY AND NEVER HAD ANYTHING INTERESTING TO SAY...
I THINK HE'S FROM UP NORTH. I COULDN'T STAND HOW HE ALWAYS SEEMED OVERWHELMED WITH LIFE IN TOKYO.
AND THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT HE GAVE ME WAS, GET THIS...
UM... I, UM...
...BOUGHT THIS AFTER ASKING MY FELLOW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TOMOKO WHAT YOUR RING SIZE WAS, MS. KAMATA...
A-A RING?!
THAT'S SOME HEAVY SHIT!
EEK!
AND IT'S SO UGLY!
Like something you'd find at one of those jewelry shops in a train station!
TA-DAH
WOULD YOU PLEASE...
...GO OUT WITH--
I'M SORRY!
WHOOSH
ずしゃあ

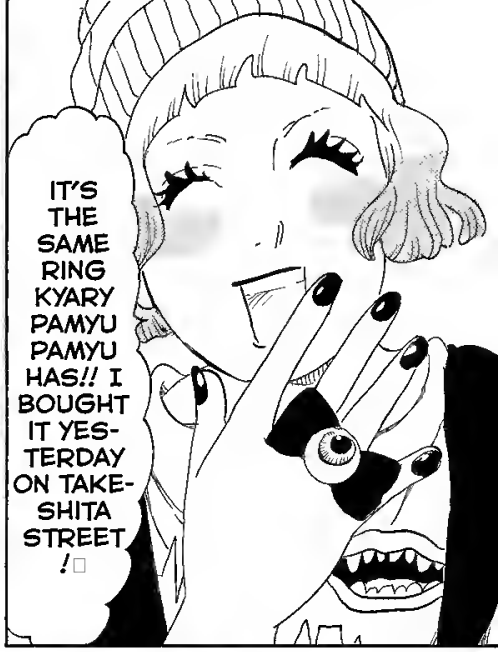
GOOD MORNING.
I'VE GOT THE DETAILS ON OUR CASTING OPTIONS FOR THE WEB SERIES.
...I STILL SEE RING-MAN ALL THE TIME AT WORK. TIME APPARENTLY HAS A SENSE OF IRONY...
BUT...
OLYMPIA
オリンピア

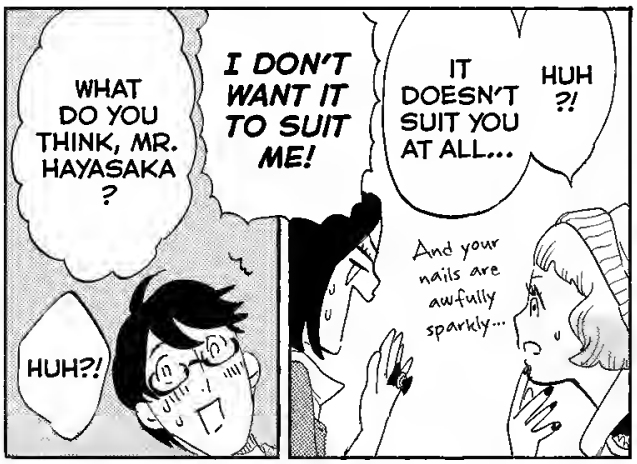

SINCE THEN, I'VE ESTAB-LISHED MYSELF AS A SCRIPT-WRITER...
...AND OCCASION-ALLY GET DRAFTED BY MY OLD PRODUC-TION COMPANY TO WRITE FOR WEB SERIES.
Jellyfish Princess

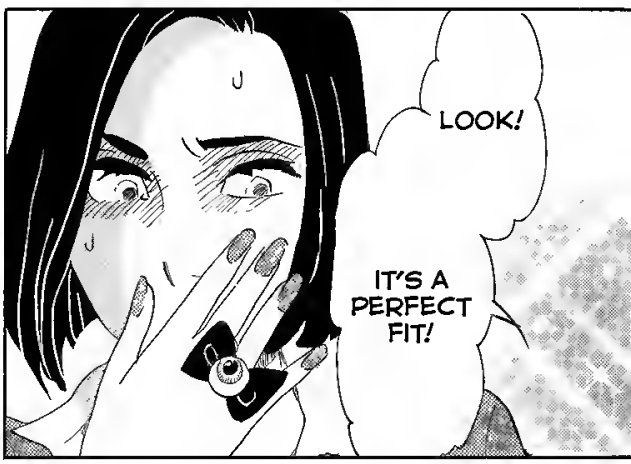
MR. HAYA-SAKA ...
...YOU'RE IN AWFULLY EARLY TODAY...
OH!
I-I'M SORRY!
I JUST REMEMBERED YOU SAYING THE OTHER DAY THAT YOU CAN'T WRITE THE SCRIPT UNTIL WE SETTLE ON THE CAST...
...SO I WANTED TO GET IT TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ...

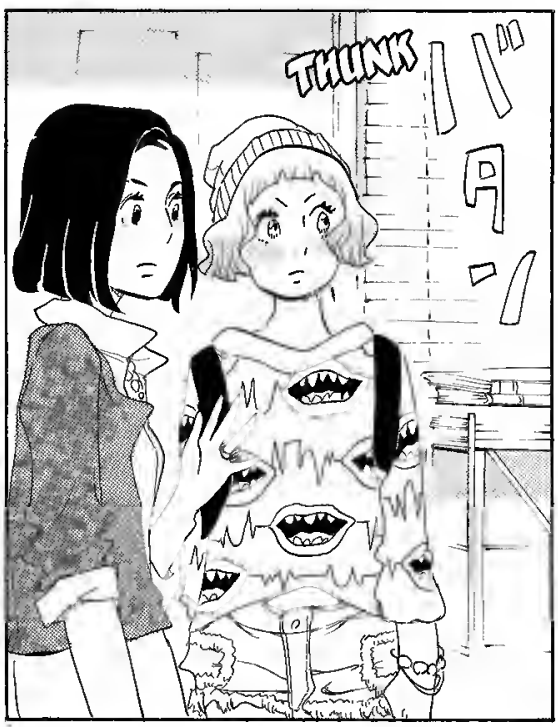
MR. HAYASAKA, WHO WAS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BACK THEN...
...IS NOW A FULL-FLEDGED DIRECTOR. AND HIS LOOKS...
...HAVE IM-PROVED A LOT, TOO.
IN FACT ...
...HE'S NOT HALF BAD?
BUT...
...I WONDER WHY HE'S STILL SINGLE.
COULD IT BE... COULD IT BE...
...HE STILL HAS A THING FOR ME?
ガチャ KER-CHUNK
GOOO-OOD MORN-ING!
WHAT ?!
YOU ALREADY STARTED THE MEETING!
WHAT'S UP, MR. HAYASAK? IT'S NOT EVEN TEN YET!
OH... YEAH. BUT I HAD TO GET THESE MATERIALS IN RIGHT AWAY...
MAMI ...
YOU AND I MAY BE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THIS OFFICE, BUT I STILL DON'T THINK THAT OUTFIT IS APPROPRIATE ...
TA-DAH!
LOOK AT THIS RING!!
ISN'T IT SOOO CUTE?

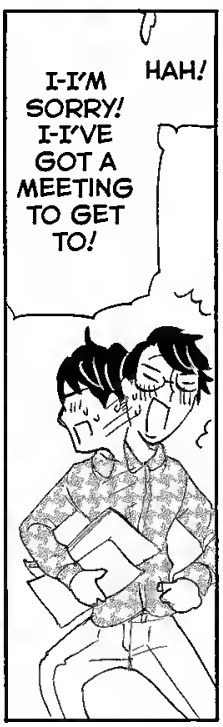
THAT'S OKAY! I'LL—
HEY!!
SHOVE
SHOVE
THERE!
THESE ARE SOOO TRENDY RIGHT NOW! YOU TRY IT ON, TOO, RINKO!
WHAT?!
T-THAT'S DIS-GUSTING...


IT'S THE SAME RING KYARY PAMYU PAMYU HAS!! I BOUGHT IT YES-TERDAY ON TAKE-SHITA STREET!

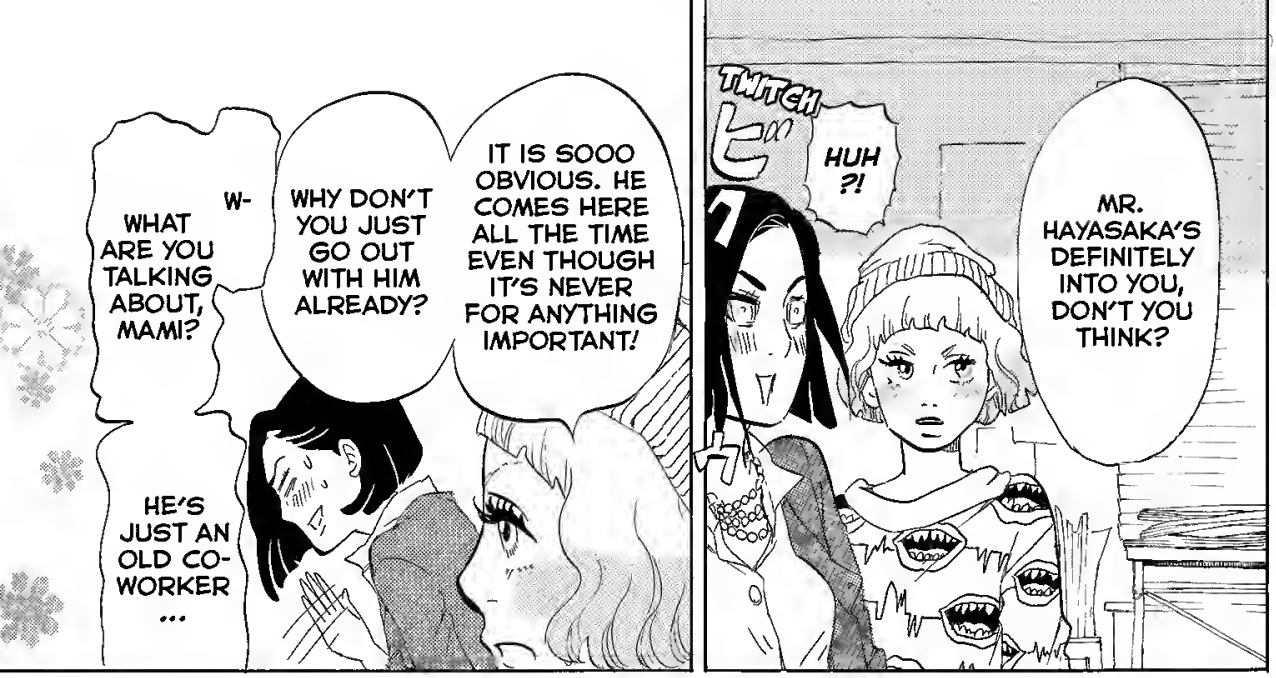

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. HAYASAKA?
HUH?!
I DON'T WANT IT TO SUIT ME!
IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL...
HUH?!
And your nails are awfully sparkly...

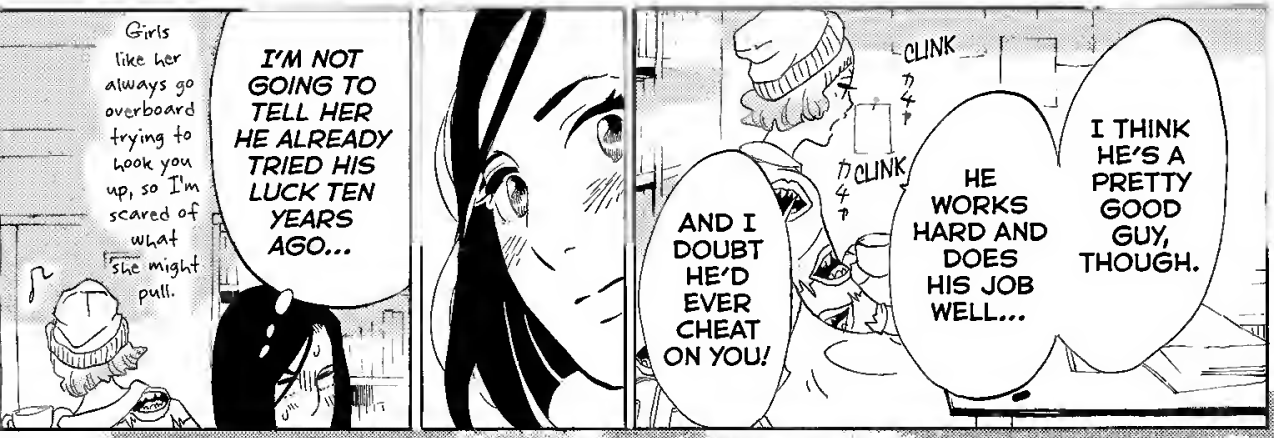

LOOK!
IT'S A PERFECT FIT!

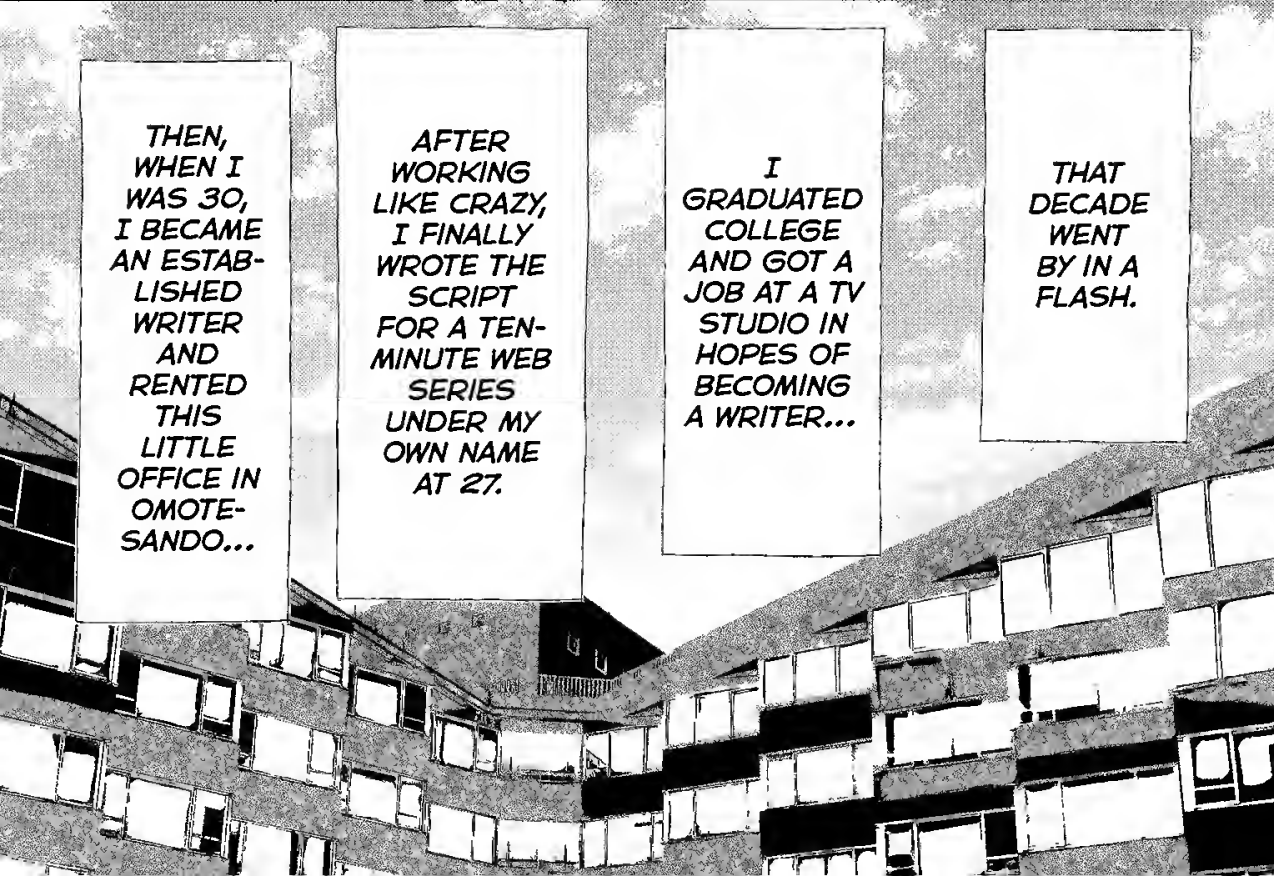

THUNK


I-I'M SORRY! I-I'VE GOT A MEETING TO GET TO!
HAH!

RINKO'S SO PRETTY, ANYTHING LOOKS GOOD ON HER.
UM...


MR. HAYASAKA'S DEFINITELY INTO YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?
TWITCH
HUH ?!
IT IS SOOO OBVIOUS. HE COMES HERE ALL THE TIME EVEN THOUGH IT'S NEVER FOR ANYTHING IMPORTANT!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO OUT WITH HIM ALREADY?
W-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAMI?
HE'S JUST AN OLD CO-WORKER ...


I THINK HE'S A PRETTY GOOD GUY, THOUGH.
CLINK
CLINK
HE WORKS HARD AND DOES HIS JOB WELL...
AND I DOUBT HE'D EVER CHEAT ON YOU!
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL HER HE ALREADY TRIED HIS LUCK TEN YEARS AGO...
Girls like her always go overboard trying to hook you up, so I'm scared of what she might pull.

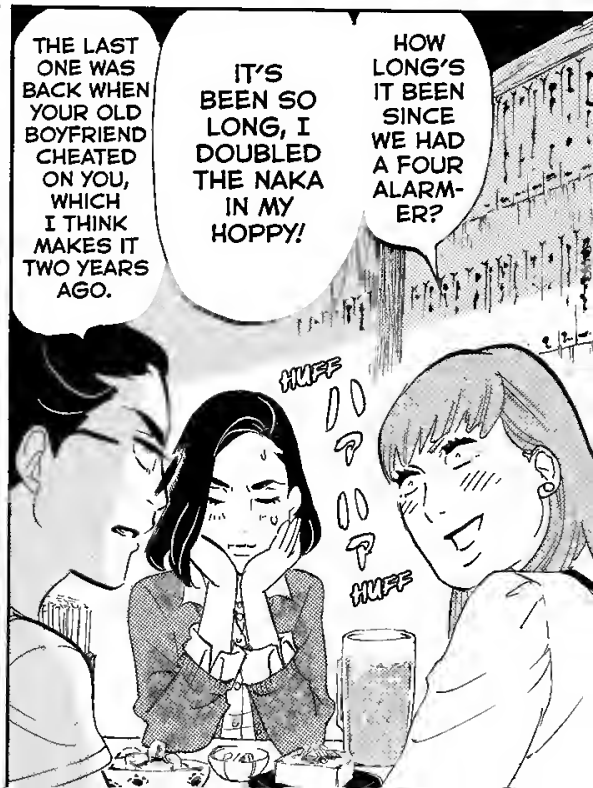

THAT DECADE WENT BY IN A FLASH.
I GRADUATED COLLEGE AND GOT A JOB AT A TV STUDIO IN HOPES OF BECOMING A WRITER...
AFTER WORKING LIKE CRAZY, I FINALLY WROTE THE SCRIPT FOR A TEN-MINUTE WEB SERIES UNDER MY OWN NAME AT 27.
THEN, WHEN I WAS 30, I BECAME AN ESTAB-LISHED WRITER AND RENTED THIS LITTLE OFFICE IN OMOTE-SANDO...

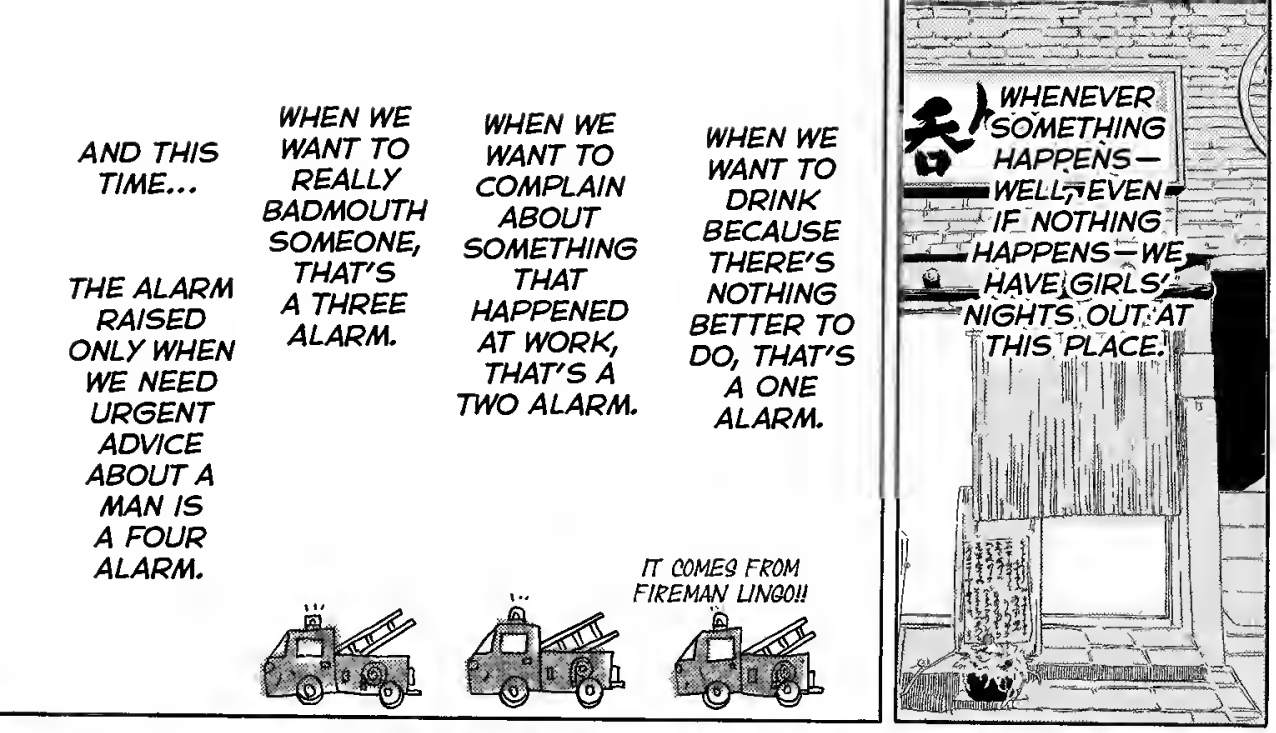
1964 ...
THE YEAR OF THE TOKYO OLYMPICS. THAT'S WHEN THESE ULTRA-VINTAGE APART-MENTS WERE BUILT...
THE NAME OF THE BUILDING IS EVEN "VILLA OLYMPIA"...
FIFTY YEARS OLD...
Inbox (29)
5/50
From: Mr. Hayasaka
/ Hide
To: Rinko Kamata
This is Hayasaka.
03-03-14 07:58 PM
Thank you for meeting with me earlier.
I hate to be a bother, but I would like to discuss something with you. Could I trouble you for some time later this week?
BEEP
HMM?
FIFTY YEARS LATER...
I'LL BET THESE CRUMMY APARTMENTS NEVER THOUGHT IN A MILLION YEARS THEY'D SEE ANOTHER OLYMPIC GAMES...
Villa Olym
VZZZZ
VZZZZ

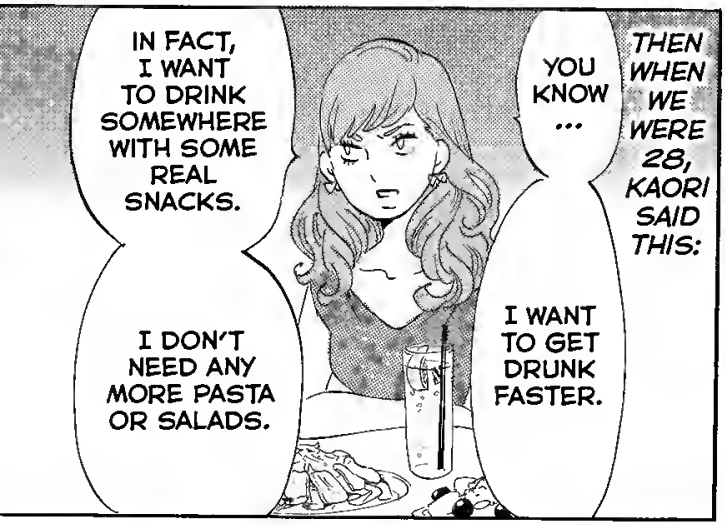
Four! Alarm!
Four! Alarm!!!
A thirty-something who can't do flick input.*
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
*see translator's notes
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
酒処
PUB
なごみ家軒に
COME IN AND TAKE IT EASY!
HARAJUKUst
PUB

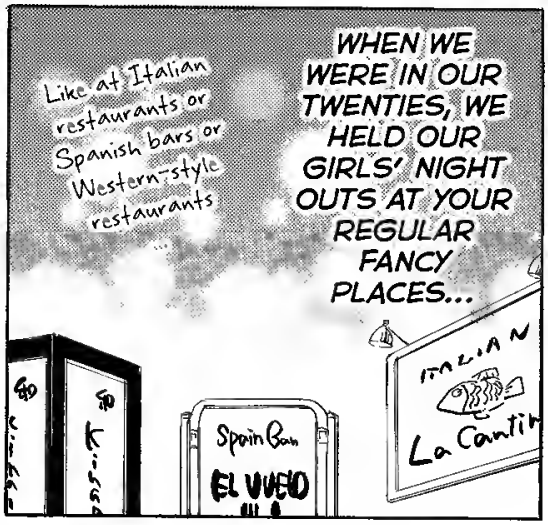
SO?

SHE'S THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE FAMILY THAT OWNS THE PUB WE CONSIDER THE BEST IN JAPAN.
THIS IS ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND OF MINE SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, KOYUKI.
THIS IS IMPORTANT!
GET IT YOURSELF!!
I'M GONNA NEED ANOTHER DRINK!
KOYUKI!

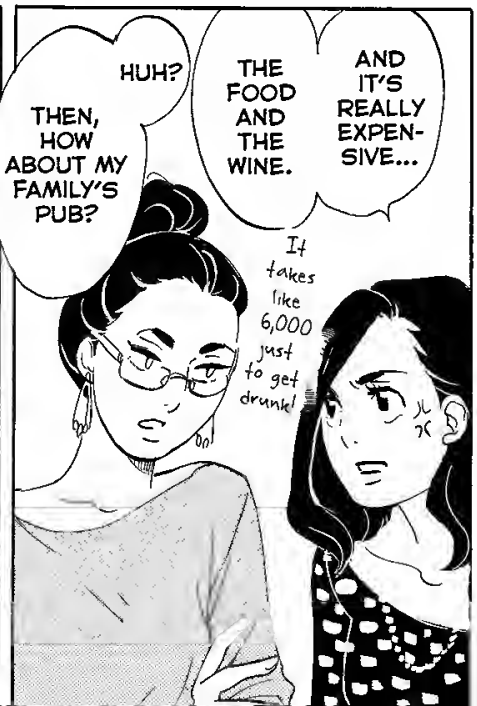

THE LAST ONE WAS BACK WHEN YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND CHEATED ON YOU, WHICH I THINK MAKES IT TWO YEARS AGO.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I DOUBLED THE NAKA IN MY HOPPY!
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE WE HAD A FOUR ALARMER?
HUFF
HUFF


AND THIS TIME...
THE ALARM RAISED ONLY WHEN WE NEED URGENT ADVICE ABOUT A MAN IS A FOUR ALARM.
WHEN WE WANT TO REALLY BADMOUTH SOMEONE, THAT'S A THREE ALARM.
WHEN WE WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED AT WORK, THAT'S A TWO ALARM.
WHEN WE WANT TO DRINK BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING BETTER TO DO, THAT'S A ONE ALARM.
IT COMES FROM FIREMAN LINGO!!
呑!
WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENS— WELL, EVEN IF NOTHING HAPPENS— WE HAVE GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT AT THIS PLACE.

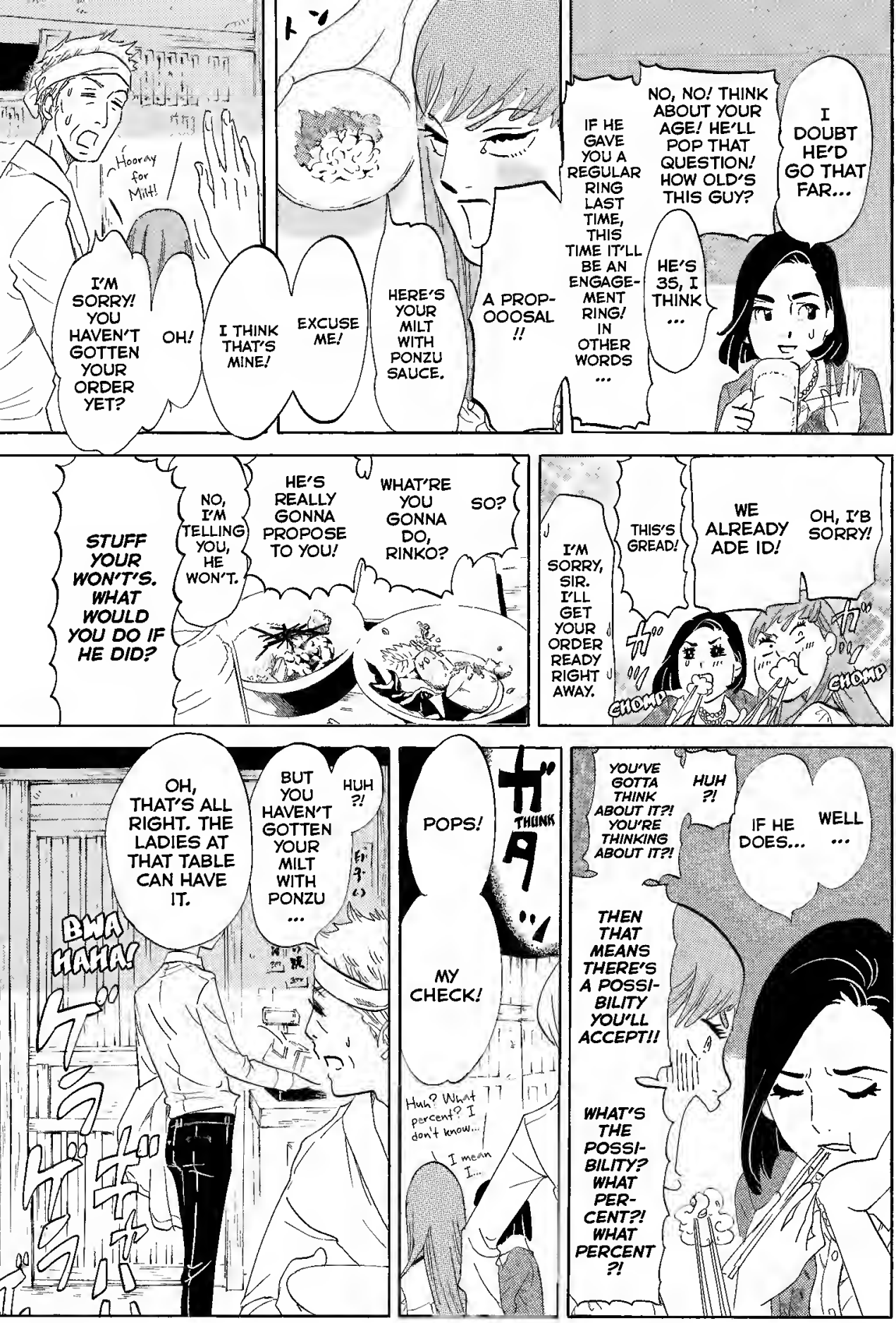

IN FACT, I WANT TO DRINK SOMEWHERE WITH SOME REAL SNACKS.
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE PASTA OR SALADS.
YOU KNOW ...
I WANT TO GET DRUNK FASTER.
THEN WHEN WE WERE 28, KAORI SAID THIS:


WHEN WE WERE IN OUR TWENTIES, WE HELD OUR GIRLS' NIGHT OUTS AT YOUR REGULAR FANCY PLACES...
Like at Italian restaurants or Spanish bars or Western-style restaurants ...
ITALIAN
La Cantina
Spain Bar
EL VUELO

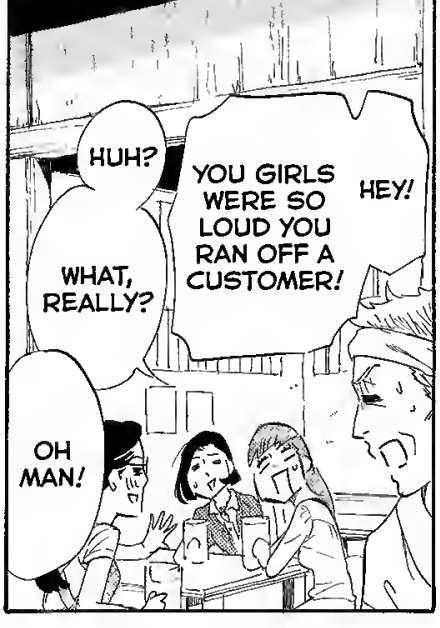
YOU KNOW IT!
DID YOU ORDER THE MILT WITH PONZU SAUCE?
GLUG
クビ
GLUG
クビ
AND ...
IT STUCK.


HUH?
THEN, HOW ABOUT MY FAMILY'S PUB?
THE FOOD AND THE WINE.
AND IT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE...
It takes like 6,000 just to get drunk!

WHOOSH
Really, get back to work...
RARGH!!
TODAY, I GOT CHATTED UP ONCE AGAIN BY THAT GUY WHO, WAY BACK WHEN, GAVE ME AN UGLY RING OUT OF NOWHERE ON MY BIRTHDAY...
SO?!
IT'S OKAY! THIS IS A FOUR ALARMER!
WE HAVE THE INGREDIENTS, BUT GO EASY TODAY, YOU THREE...
DAD, CAN YOU DO LIVER STEAKS TODAY?!
THEN WE'LL ORDER SOME LIVER CUTLETS AND LIVER SKEWERS ...
AND I WANT SOME LIVER TOO! LIVER!
カキフライ 580
いわし天ぷら 450
ポテトフライ 400
ガーリックポテト 450
さつま揚 400
ちくわカレー揚 400
げそ唐揚 00
COULD YOU LADIES KEEP IT DOWN A LITTLE?
HUH ?!
OH!
WHY, CERTAINLY! PARDON US.
SO?!
EXCUSE ME...
WAIT! YOU MEAN... THAT SHABBY A.D. ?!
WHAT?!
THE GUY'S A DIRECTOR NOW.
FOR REAL ?!
WAIT, HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT AGAIN?!
TEN YEARS ...
SO HE'S GONNA ASK YOU OUT ON YOUR BIRTHDAY FOR THE SECOND TIME, A DECADE LATER TO THE DAY...
THIS GUY'S GOT GUTS.
MUNCH
YOU KNOW ...
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T ASK YOU OUT THIS TIME...
WHAT IF HE BREAKS OUT THE OL' PROPOSAL?
Why'd you put it like that?

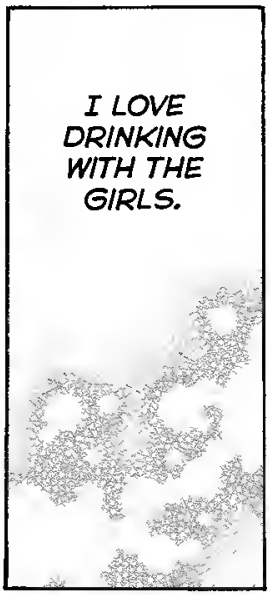

I DOUBT HE'D GO THAT FAR...
NO, NO! THINK ABOUT YOUR AGE! HE'LL POP THAT QUESTION! HOW OLD'S THIS GUY?
HE'S 35, I THINK ...
IF HE GAVE YOU A REGULAR RING LAST TIME, THIS TIME IT'LL BE AN ENGAGEMENT RING! IN OTHER WORDS ...
A PROP-OOOSAL !!
HERE'S YOUR MILT WITH PONZU SAUCE.
EXCUSE ME!
I THINK THAT'S MINE!
OH!
I'M SORRY! YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR ORDER YET?
Hooray for Milt!
SO?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, RINKO?
HE'S REALLY GONNA PROPOSE TO YOU!
NO, I'M TELLING YOU, HE WON'T.
STUFF YOUR WON'T'S. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF HE DID?
OH, I'B SORRY!
WE ALREADY ADE ID!
THIS'S GREAD!
I'M SORRY, SIR. I'LL GET YOUR ORDER READY RIGHT AWAY.
CHOMP
CHOMP
WELL ...
IF HE DOES...
HUH ?!
YOU'VE GOTTA THINK ABOUT IT?! YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT?!
THEN THAT MEANS THERE'S A POSSI-BILITY YOU'LL ACCEPT!!
WHAT'S THE POSSI-BILITY? WHAT PER-CENT?! WHAT PERCENT ?!
THUNK
POPS!
MY CHECK!
Huh? What percent? I don't know... I mean I...
HUH ?!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR MILT WITH PONZU ...
OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. THE LADIES AT THAT TABLE CAN HAVE IT.
BWA HAHA!

BWAHA HAHAHA
ゲゲゲゲ
BWAHAHA-HAHA
ギャハハハ
IN TOKYO, NO ONE CARES IF YOUNG WOMEN DRINK IN SOME CHEAP PUB.
WHAM
WHAM

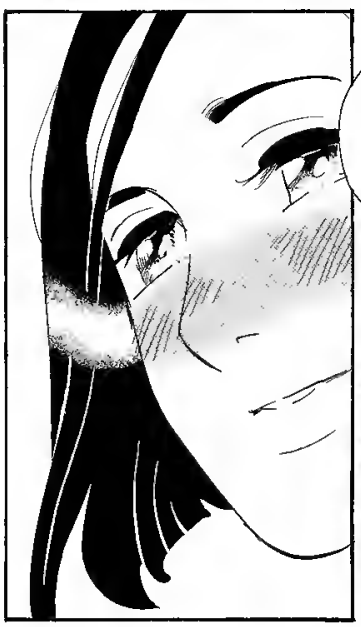

HUH?
YOU GIRLS WERE SO LOUD YOU RAN OFF A CUSTOMER!
HEY!
WHAT, REALLY?
OH MAN!

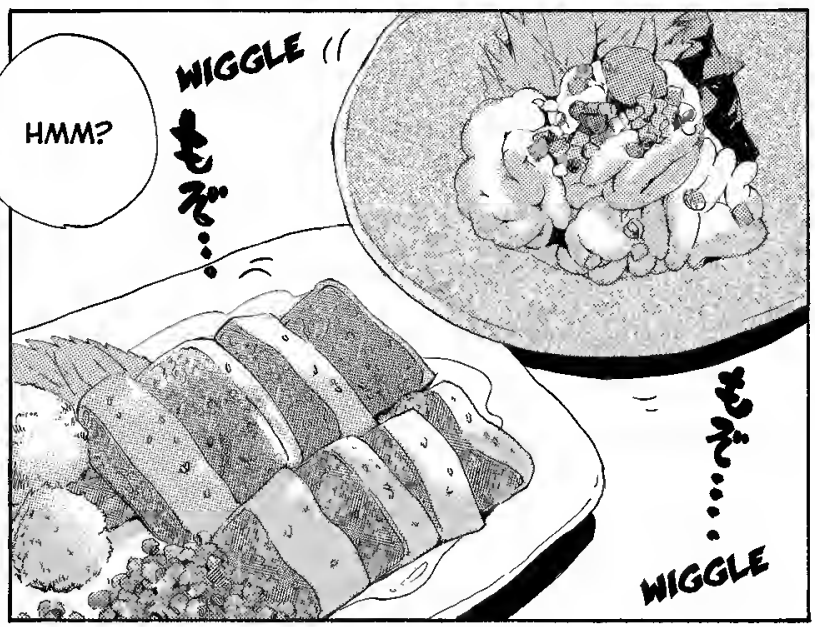
THUNK
カラン
EN-JOYED THE MEAL.
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE, SIR.

THE GREAT BEER...
THE DELICIOUS FOOD...

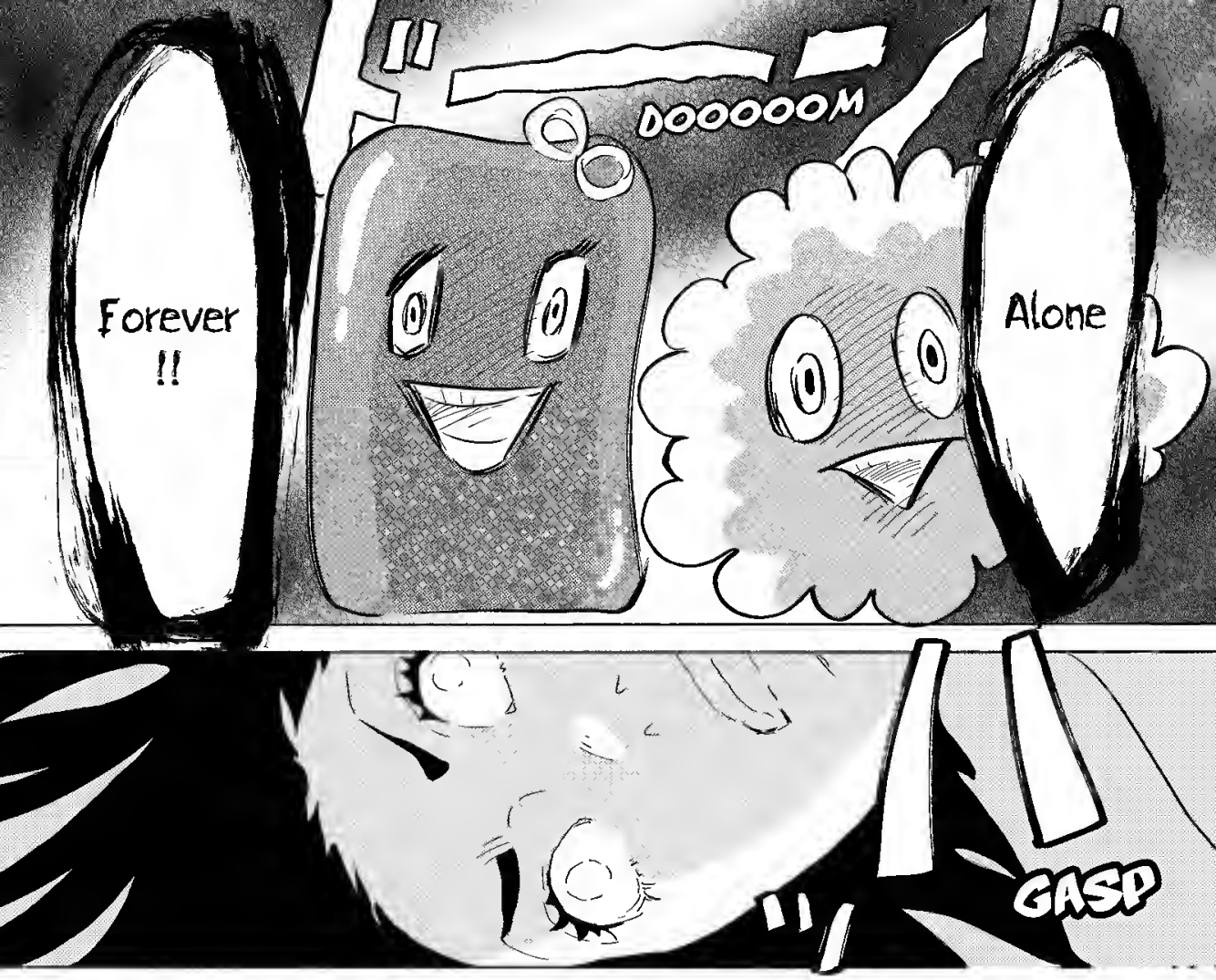

I LOVE DRINKING WITH THE GIRLS.

AND I LOVE TOKYO.




HMM?
WIGGLE
もぞ...
もぞ...
WIGGLE

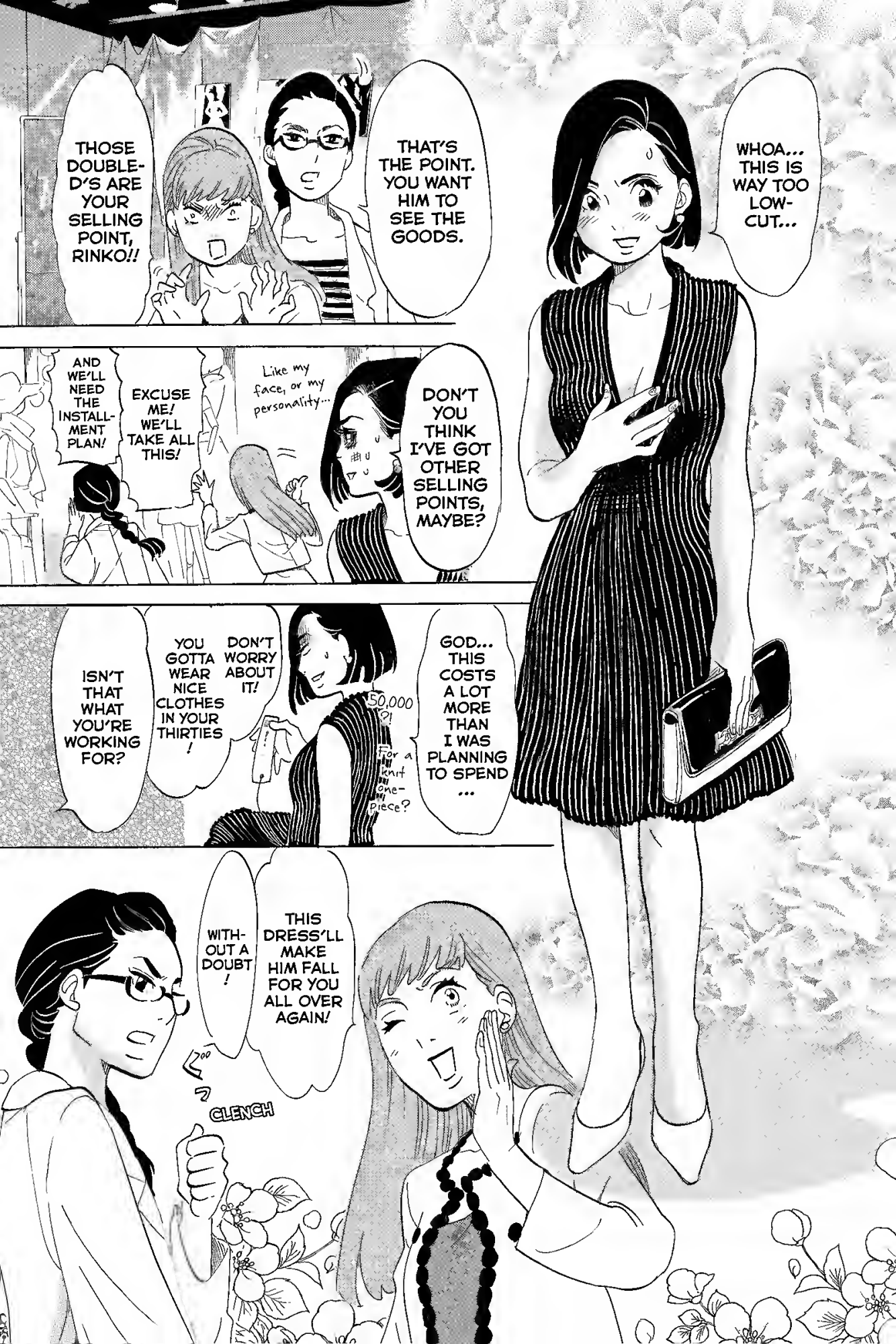
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...WE LOOK AHEAD SIX YEARS TO WHAT THESE THREE WILL BE DOING DURING THE NEXT OLYMPICS?
THE CODFISH MILT AND LIVER ARE TALKING!
AHA-HA!
THEY'LL BE DRINKING HERE LIKE ALWAYS! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
HOP
YOU GOT SO DRUNK LAST WEEK YOU COULDN'T EVEN WORK THE NEXT DAY... WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
RINKO!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...YOU DIDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH TONIGHT?
SUNRISE
HUH?
THERE'S NO TIME TO BE TALKING LIKE THAT... WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
COME ON!
BUT I DON'T REALLY... LIKE MR. HAYASAKA THAT WAY...
RINKO...YOU CAN'T LET THAT NO-LONGER-JUST-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GET AWAY...WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WE REALLY NEED TO GET OUR ACTS TOGETHER AND FIND SOME HUSBANDS...
I KNOW!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE RIGHT? WHAT IF, WHAT IF... HE'S A NICE GUY EVEN IF HE'S A LOSER?
IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY, YOU'LL BE...
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER, SO THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE... WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
THAT'S RIGHT!
What if, what if... Atsuko Asano said so the 101st time a man proposed to her?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WOMEN HAVE TO CHOOSE "BEING LOVED" OVER "BEING IN LOVE" ONCE THEY'RE OVER THIRTY?
RINKO!

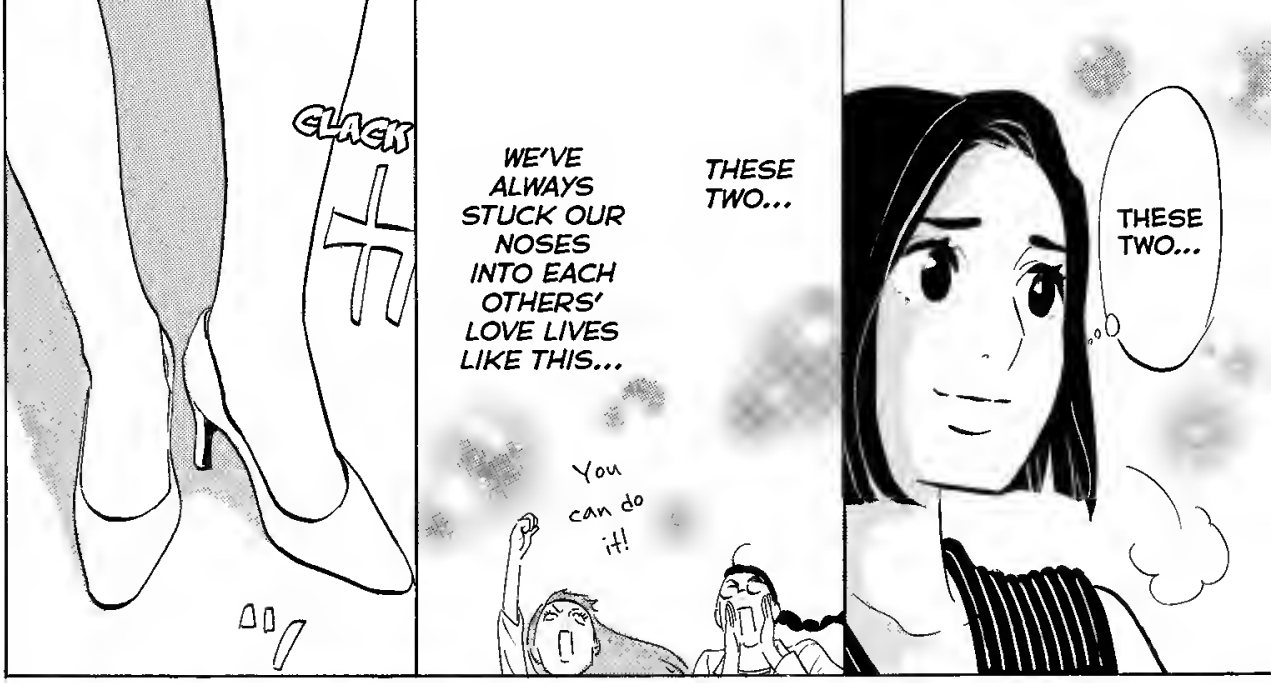

Forever !!
DOOOOOM
Alone
GASP

AND THAT DAY SOON CAME.
SONEA RIK

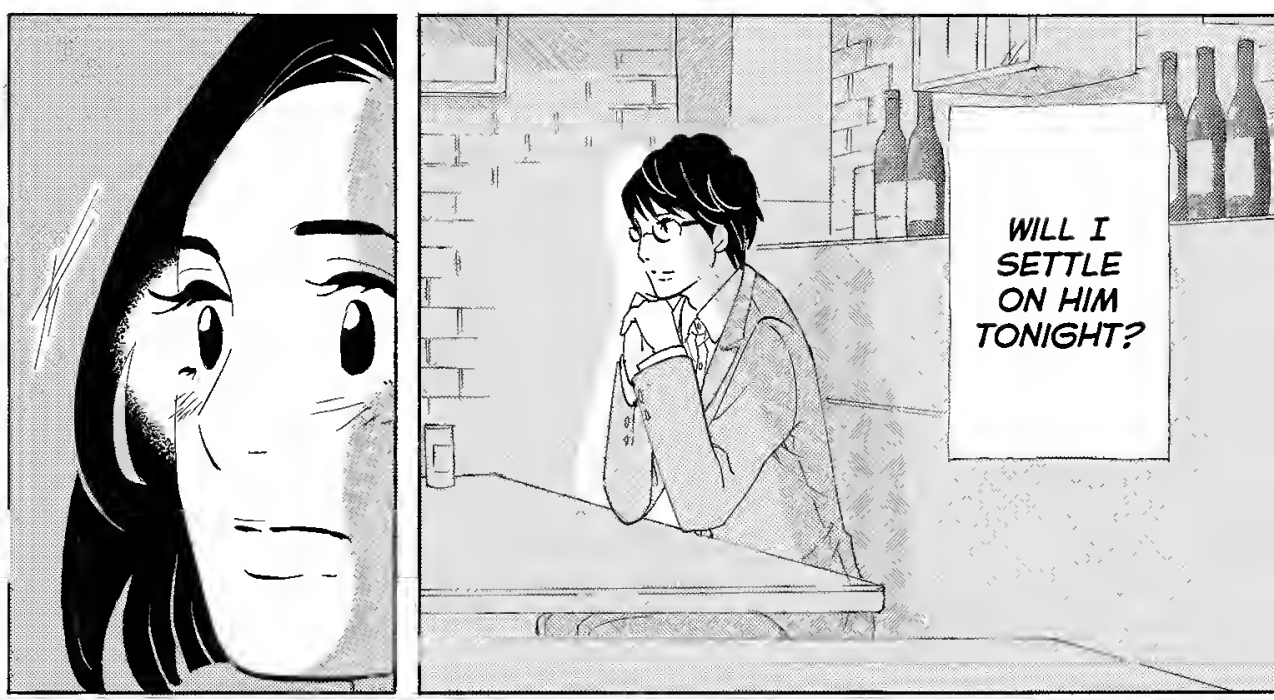
WH-
WHAT A NIGHT-MARE ...
SCARIER THAN ANY HORROR MOVIE...
WHAM ガン
WHAM ガン
WHAM ガン

J-
JUST A DREAM?
WHUMP


WHOA... THIS IS WAY TOO LOW-CUT...
THAT'S THE POINT. YOU WANT HIM TO SEE THE GOODS.
THOSE DOUBLE-D'S ARE YOUR SELLING POINT, RINKO!!
DON'T YOU THINK I'VE GOT OTHER SELLING POINTS, MAYBE?
Like my face, or my personality...
EXCUSE ME! WE'LL TAKE ALL THIS!
AND WE'LL NEED THE INSTALL-MENT PLAN!
GOD... THIS COSTS A LOT MORE THAN I WAS PLANNING TO SPEND ...
50,000 ¥?! For a knit one-piece?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
YOU GOTTA WEAR NICE CLOTHES IN YOUR THIRTIES!
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE WORKING FOR?
THIS DRESS'LL MAKE HIM FALL FOR YOU ALL OVER AGAIN!
WITH-OUT A DOUBT!
CLENCH


CLACK
WE'VE ALWAYS STUCK OUR NOSES INTO EACH OTHERS' LOVE LIVES LIKE THIS...
THESE TWO...
You can do it!
THESE TWO...

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
NOW THAT THEY'VE GOTTEN ME PUMPED UP...
AND...


WILL I SETTLE ON HIM TONIGHT?

BA-DUMP
トゥンキーン
RINKO!!
BEAM
はっ
あっ
LOOK AT HIM...
SMILING SO HAPPILY...
EVEN AFTER I DUMPED HIM SO HARSHLY A DECADE AGO...
HE MUST HAVE THE STRONG-EST HEART IN THE WORLD.

I'VE BEEN COMING HERE A LOT RECENTLY.
THE FOOD IS AMAZING, AND IT'S OPEN LATE, SO IT'S VERY CONVENIENT.
A COZY LITTLE BISTRO HIDDEN ON A BACK STREET...
HE KNOWS HOW TO ORDER WINE...
OH, THE NATURAL CHARDONNAY WAS NICE. THE ONE I HAD THE OTHER DAY.
I RECOMMEND ONE OF OUR NATURAL WINES.
WE'LL START WITH TWO GLASSES OF SPARKLING WINE. AND GO AHEAD AND SELECT A WHITE WINE TO PAIR WITH OUR MEAL.
I THINK ...
...SORRY ABOUT THAT NIGHT.
I REALLY AM...
I TOOK YOU SOMEWHERE THAT DIDN'T FIT YOU...
SO... WELL...
I HAD JUST MOVED TO TOKYO, SO I DIDN'T KNOW THE RESTAURANTS...
TEN YEARS AGO...
YOU KNOW ...
THEN LET'S ORDER SOME WITH *PAIN DE CAMPAGNE!* THEY BAKE IT THEMSELVES.
OH, YES! I LOVE LIVER!
DO YOU EAT LIVER, RINKO?
THE LIVER PÂTÉ IS VERY GOOD.
HERE, THEY SERVE SOUTHERN FRENCH COUNTRY CUISINE.
THE FOOD THERE WAS DELICIOUS...
D- DON'T BE!
Not that I remember much!
GLITTER
EXCITED

HUH?
UH-OH...
AND SO IS THE BREAD !!
THIS IS GOOD!
WOW!
SEE?
I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE HAVING FUN.
...GREW INTO A FINE PRINCE OVER THE COURSE OF A DECADE...
THE SHABBY LITTLE KID FROM TEN YEARS AGO...

AND RETURNED TO SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET.
WOW ...
WHAT A VIEW ...
TENANTS HERE ARE ALLOWED TO USE THE ROOF WHENEVER THEY WANT.
I HEAR YOU COULD EVEN USE THAT POOL BACK IN THE DAY...
HUH?! A POOL ?!
YES, BECAUSE THIS PLACE WAS BUILT FOR THE OLYMPICS, YOU KNOW.
WOW ...
YOU FOUND QUITE AN INTEREST-ING PLACE FOR YOUR OFFICE, RINKO...
HEHEH.
IT'S OLD, BUT I LIKE IT QUITE A BIT.
...
MR. HAYA-SAKA.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DISCUSS?
OH... I-I'M SORRY.
BLUSH
I ACTUALLY MEANT TO DISCUSS IT EARLIER...WHILE WE WERE EATING...
BUT, YOU KNOW, I'M A REGULAR THERE...AND IT'S SMALL, SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING IF THE STAFF OVERHEARD...
AHAHA!
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT HERE!
WE'RE ALL ALONE.

...
RIGHT ...
THEN ...
I UM... REALIZE ...
...THAT IN MY CURRENT POSITION... IT'S REALLY...I MEAN, DEFINITELY ...
...TEN TIMES WORSE THAN THAT TIME A DECADE AGO...
...FOR ME TO BE SAYING THIS...
...TO A WRITER I WORK WITH...
I AM WELL AWARE ...
...THAT IT'S A STRANGE THING TO ASK...
RUSTLE
IT MIGHT FREAK YOU OUT A LITTLE ...
MAYBE YOU'LL THINK I'M CREEPY ...
BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT, I WANTED YOU...
...TO UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL...

RINKO.
PLEASE DON'T LAUGH...
BA-DUMP
IS THAT... ANOTHER RING??
BVLGARI
I WON'T LAUGH ANY MORE!
WHAP
I'M SORRY!
ALL RIGHT!
AH!
YOU'RE ALREADY LAUGH-ING!
...
PFFT!
ALL RIGHT.
R-
RINKO ...
I...
...
GO AHEAD.

FLASH
ガシッ
...I'M THINKING OF ASKING YOUR ASSISTANT MAMI OUT WITH THE INTENTION OF ONE DAY GETTING MARRIED!

...I'M THINKING OF ASKING YOUR ASSISTANT MAMI OUT WITH THE INTENTION OF ONE DAY GETTING MARRIED!
BVLGARI B

FLASH
ガッ

KA-
BOOM

BOOM

KA-

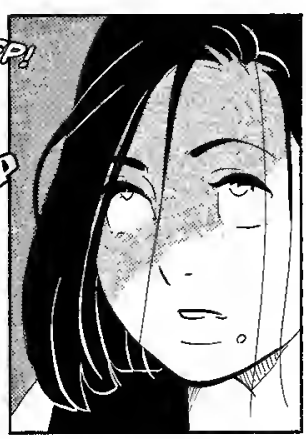
THAT'S HOW I... OH, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT RING FROM WHEN YOU DUMPED ME THOSE MANY, MANY YEARS AGO? I JUST TOOK IT OUT OF THE DRAWER AND DOWN TO BULGARI...
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN SHE PUT THAT WEIRD RING ON YOUR FINGER THE OTHER DAY? REMEMBER HOW IT FIT JUST RIGHT?!
BVLGARI
I MEAN ...
I WANTED TO GET YOUR OPINION BEFORE I GAVE IT TO HER!!
HUFF HUFF
CLINK
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WILL THIS WORK?
...AND ASKED THE CLERK TO HELP ME PICK OUT A RING IN THAT SIZE THAT WOULD SUIT A YOUNG WOMAN LIKE MAMI!!
BOOM
ドーン
PUB
...BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB, YOU KNOW THE FEMALE HEART BETTER THAN ANYONE!!

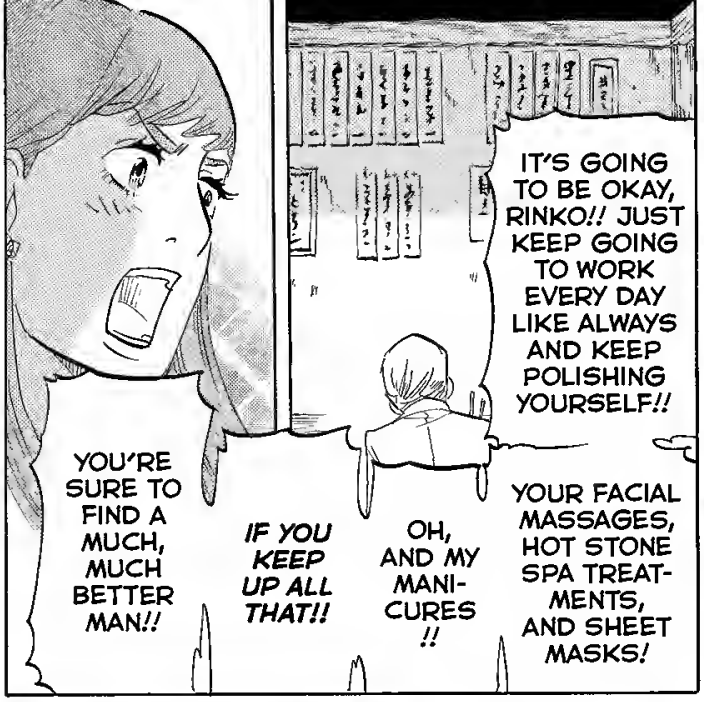
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

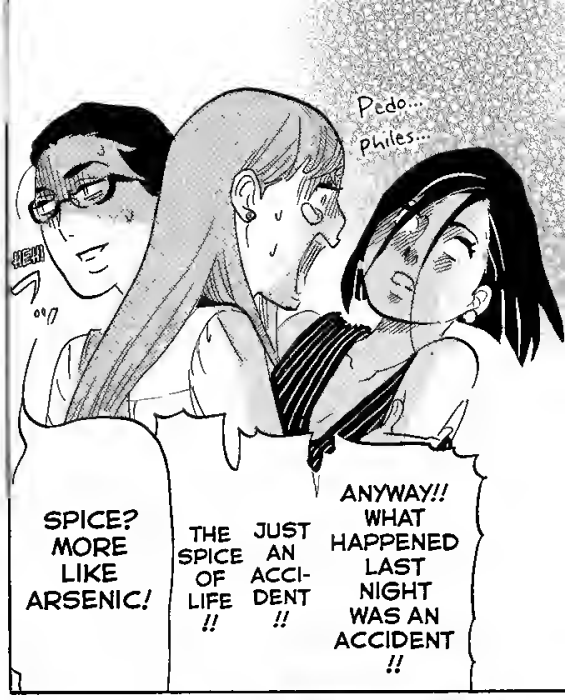
SHE ISN'T LADYLIKE AND SHE'S GOT NO SEX APPEAL. SHE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE HARAJUKU KIDS. AHA-HAHAHA.
WELL, SHE'S ONLY 19. HER HAIR'S PINK.
HE'S A PEDO-PHILE.
ALL JAPANESE MEN ARE PEDO-PHILES.

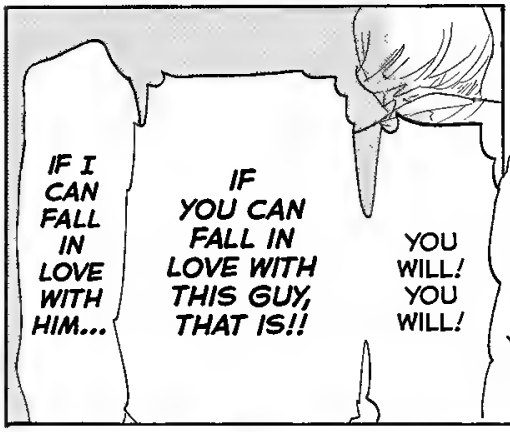
WAIT JUST ONE DAMN MINUTE!!
TIME TO DIE!
ALL RIGHT!
うん!
YEP!
FWIP
スワ
DO

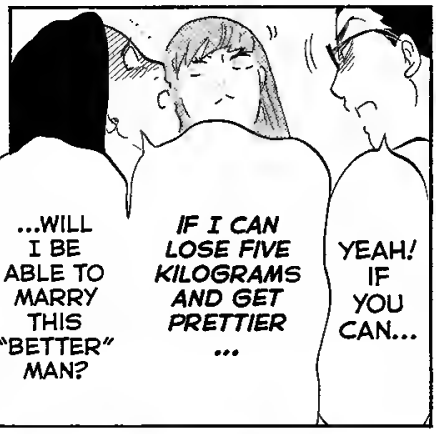
THUNK




YOU'RE SURE TO FIND A MUCH, MUCH BETTER MAN!!
IF YOU KEEP UP ALL THAT!!
OH, AND MY MANI-CURES !!
YOUR FACIAL MASSAGES, HOT STONE SPA TREAT-MENTS, AND SHEET MASKS!
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, RINKO!! JUST KEEP GOING TO WORK EVERY DAY LIKE ALWAYS AND KEEP POLISHING YOURSELF!!


Pedo...
Philes...
SPICE? MORE LIKE ARSENIC!
THE SPICE OF LIFE !!
JUST AN ACCI-DENT !!
ANYWAY!! WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT WAS AN ACCIDENT !!


IF I CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM...
IF YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS GUY, THAT IS!!
YOU WILL! YOU WILL!


...WILL I BE ABLE TO MARRY THIS "BETTER" MAN?
IF I CAN LOSE FIVE KILOGRAMS AND GET PRETTIER ...
YEAH! IF YOU CAN...

SHAKE
SHAKE
IF I GET PRETTIER THAN I AM NOW ...
THEN ...

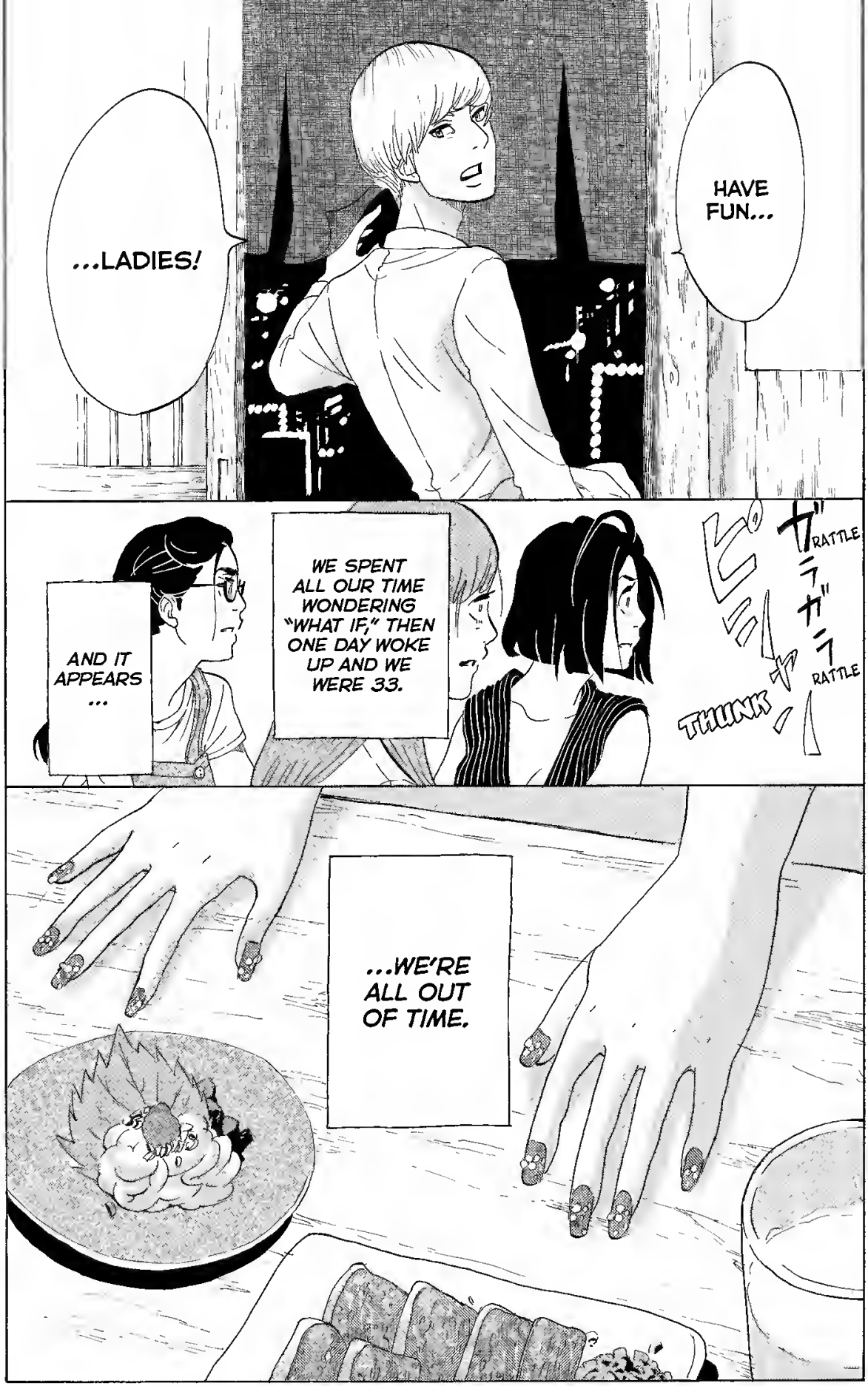
YOU'RE BEING LOUD AGAIN.

EXCUSE ME, LADIES.
DAD!! CODFISH MILT AND LIVER STEAKS!!
ALL RIGHT!! TONIGHT, WE'RE HAVING A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT UNTIL MORNING !!
I'LL HAVE LIQUOR ON THE ROCKS!
Booze is the only medicine for this!!

YOU KEEP BLABBERING ON ABOUT THESE "GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT" EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT GIRLS ANYMORE...
WHA ?!
AND ABOUT MARRYING THIS GREAT GUY WHO DOESN'T EVEN EXIST ...
IF YOU WANT TO DO ALL THIS GIRL TALK, COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE PRIVATE FANCY DINING PLACE NEXT DOOR?
I COME TO THIS PUB BECAUSE I LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE.
HUH ?! ...
GULP
I'M HONESTLY IMPRESSED ...
THAT WOMEN YOUR AGE CAN GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT THESE BASELESS "WHAT-IF" STORIES ABOUT "IF YOU CAN LOSE WEIGHT" OR "IF YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM"...
WELL, NO MATTER.
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES, WHY DON'T YOU LADIES ...
TAK
AM I RIGHT?
IT'S JUST AN OLD MAIDS' GOSSIP CIRCLE.
IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, THAT ISN'T A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...

...JUST KEEP DRINKING TO YOUR WHAT-IF STORIES!
YOU WHAT-IF WOMEN!!

I THINK I WENT TOO FAR.
MAYBE ...
...
OH, CRAP.
POPS!! THE CHECK!!
SPROING
にょーん
WELP.
TIME TO MAKE MY ESCAPE.
TMP スタ
TMP スタ
TMP スタ


HAVE FUN...
...LADIES!
WE SPENT ALL OUR TIME WONDERING "WHAT IF," THEN ONE DAY WOKE UP AND WE WERE 33.
AND IT APPEARS ...
RATTLE
RATTLE
THUNK
...WE'RE ALL OUT OF TIME.

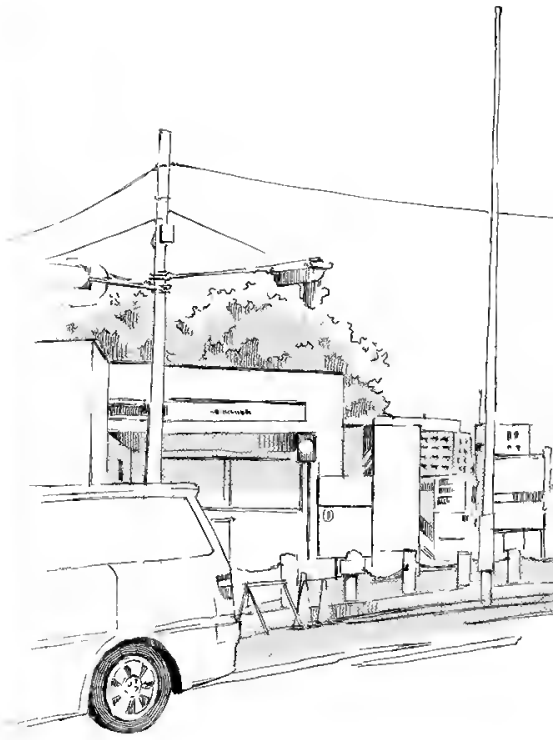
ACT 2

THE WHAT-IF GIRLS AND THE BLONDE MAN

I MIGHT NOT BE ALONE TODAY.
...IF MY HEART HAD BEEN A LITTLE LARGER ...
...THAT IF I HAD ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL TEN YEARS AGO...
...BUT I STILL FIND MYSELF THINKING, IN MY HUNGOVER STATE...
I KNOW ALL THESE "WHAT-IFS" AREN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE ...

I KNOW ALL THESE "WHAT-IFS" AREN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE ...
...BUT I STILL FIND MYSELF THINKING, IN MY HUNGOVER STATE...

...THAT IF I HAD ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL TEN YEARS AGO...



...IF MY HEART HAD BEEN A LITTLE LARGER ...

I MIGHT NOT BE ALONE TODAY.

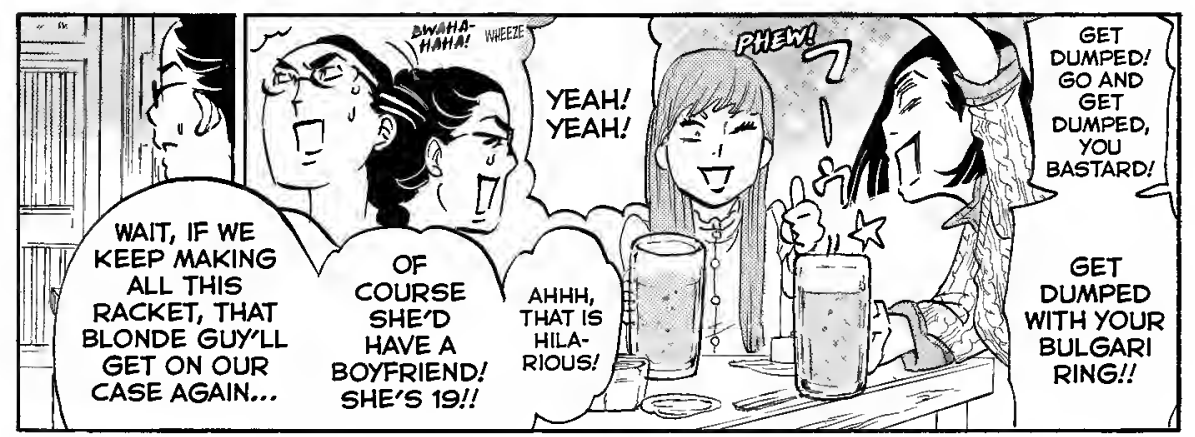
BOOOOM
YOU WHAT-IF WOMEN!
THE ANNOYING MEMORY OF LAST NIGHT
I DRANK TOO MUCH AGAIN ...
THROB THROB
UGH...
ASSHOLE!
SHAKE SHAKE
I THOUGHT HE WAS YOUNG AND KINDA CUTE, BUT THEN HE GOT A BIG HEAD ABOUT IT...
MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER
NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, I'M GONNA KICK HIS SCRAWNY—
WHAM
BMPH!
I-I'M SORRY!
GOSH, HOW CLUMSY OF ME!
GASP
Ow!
WAIT!
THAT WASN'T EVEN A PERSON!!
And definitely not a hot guy!!
FIVE RINGS BRIDGE
HUH?! WHAT?! "FIVE RINGS BRIDGE"?!
I NEVER NOTICED THIS HERE!
"FIVE RINGS"? THAT MEANS THIS THING MUST'VE BEEN BUILT FOR THE OLYMPICS TOO...

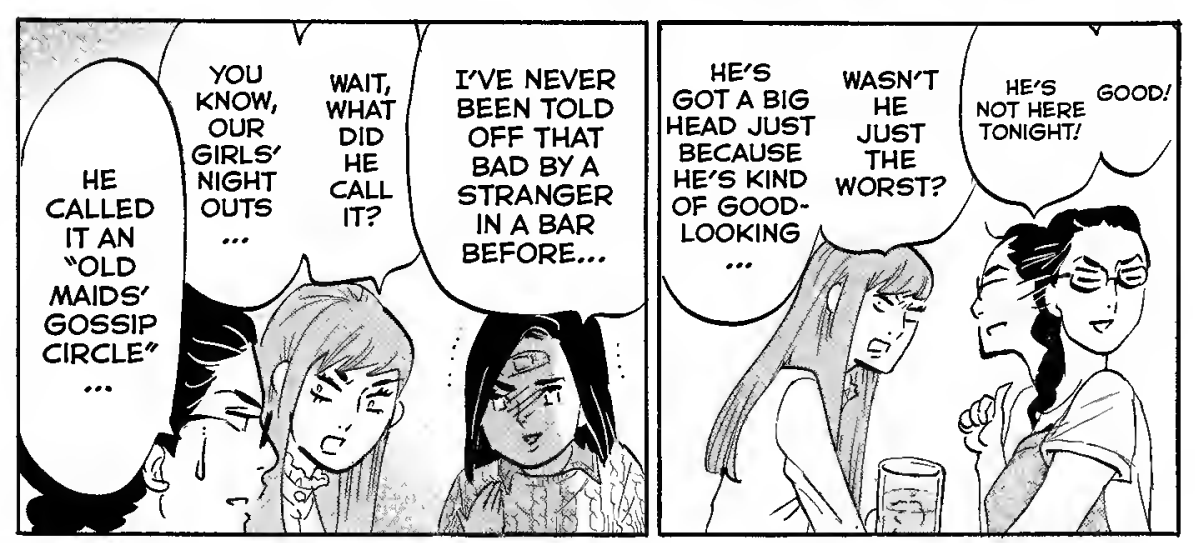
THERE'S A GLOBE ON TOP ...
ごりんばし
HEY, LISTEN TO THIS! I GOT THIS WEIRD TEXT FROM MR. HAYASAKA LAST NIGHT!
HE INVITED ME OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT, JUST THE TWO OF US!
HOW ABOUT THAT? YOU THINK HE WANTS TO USE ME TO GET TO YOU OR SOMETHING?
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
M-MAM! ...
I...
YES?
T-T...
THE TRUTH IS...
YES?
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SORRY FOR USING ONE OF MY BANDAIDS, BUT...
PLAP
THERE! NOW YOU'RE OKAY!
THANK YOU... MAMI ...
MY HEART HURTS MORE THAN MY FOREHEAD...
I can't look directly at that firm, 19-year-old skin...
YOU ACTUALLY RAN INTO IT HARD ENOUGH TO DRAW BLOOD?!
THAT'S HILARIOUS, RINKO!
A HA HA HA!

RINKO'S BEST
I'VE ...
...NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STAND...MR. HAYASAKA...
HUH ?!
REALLY ?!
Hehe-heh...
THAT'S RIGHT TH-...
YOU KNOW !!
HE IS KINDA CREEPY SOME-TIMES!
LIKE, SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T TELL IF HE'S BEING TIMID OR JUST PLAIN RUDE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU... MAMI?
WHAT DO YOU... THINK OF HIM?
OH, I CAN'T HANDLE OLDER MEN!
I PREFER YOUNGER GUYS!
RIGHT NOW, I'M EVEN DATING A HIGH SCHOOLER!
FWIP
EHEHEH! WANNA SEE A PICTURE? HE'S SOOO HAND-SOME!
SEE?
WHAAAAAT?!
ISN'T HE SO, SO, SOOO CUTE? HE LOOKS JUST A BIT LIKE THAT MODEL, KEY.
THE OTHER DAY, A STREET-SNAP OF HIM ON OMOTESANDO APPEARED IN SNAP MAGAZINE!
WOW... A HIGH SCHOOLER DRESSED LIKE THAT...
IN FACT... WHOA...
SO YOU'VE GOT A BOY-FRIEND ...
I GUESS YOU WOULD ...
SURE DO! I'VE NEVER NOT HAD ONE! NOT SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL!
SO SHE DOES ...
SO SHE DOES ...

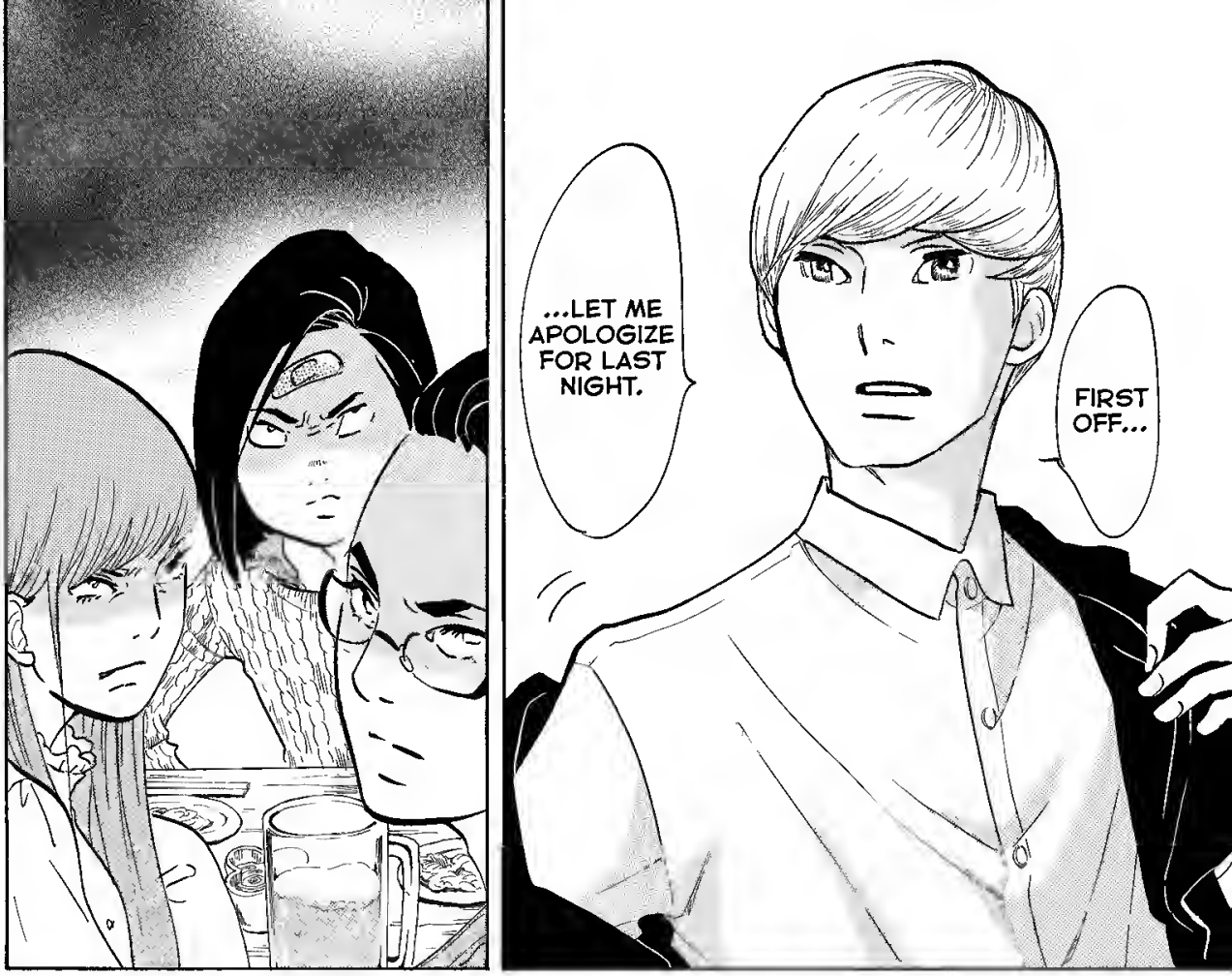
JKUst
HARAJUKU
Four! Alarm!!
Four! Alarm!!
CHACK
So she does...
...
GASP
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
HHAM
酒処
PUB
COME IN AND TAKE IT EASY!

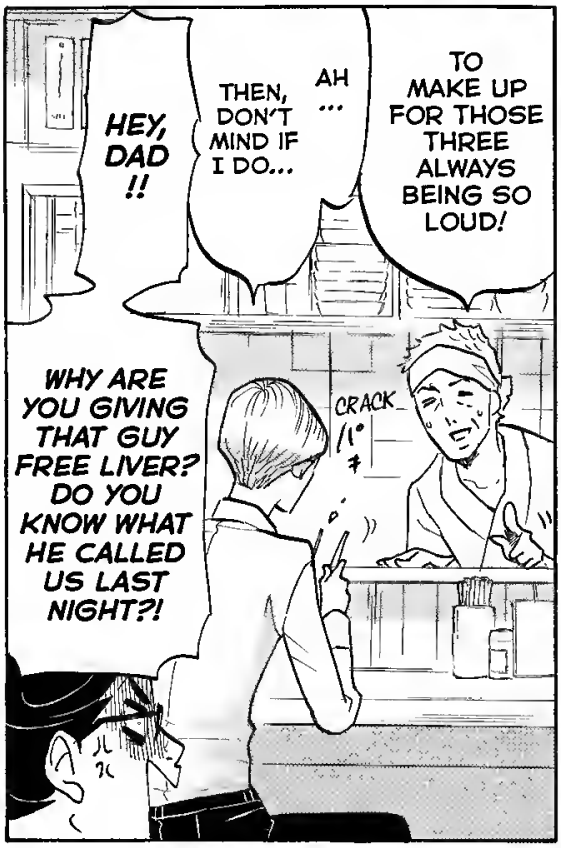
HAHAHAHA!
THINK
HA!
HAHA-HAHA!
HAHA-HAHA!
SUCK ON THAT !!


BWAHA-HAHA!
WHEEZE
YEAH! YEAH!
PHEW!
GET DUMPED! GO AND GET DUMPED, YOU BASTARD!
WAIT, IF WE KEEP MAKING ALL THIS RACKET, THAT BLONDE GUY'LL GET ON OUR CASE AGAIN...
OF COURSE SHE'D HAVE A BOYFRIEND! SHE'S 19!!
AHHH, THAT IS HILA-RIOUS!
GET DUMPED WITH YOUR BULGARI RING!!


HE CALLED IT AN "OLD MAIDS' GOSSIP CIRCLE" ...
YOU KNOW, OUR GIRLS' NIGHT OUTS ...
WAIT, WHAT DID HE CALL IT?
I'VE NEVER BEEN TOLD OFF THAT BAD BY A STRANGER IN A BAR BEFORE...
HE'S GOT A BIG HEAD JUST BECAUSE HE'S KIND OF GOOD-LOOKING ...
WASN'T HE JUST THE WORST?
HE'S NOT HERE TONIGHT!
GOOD!

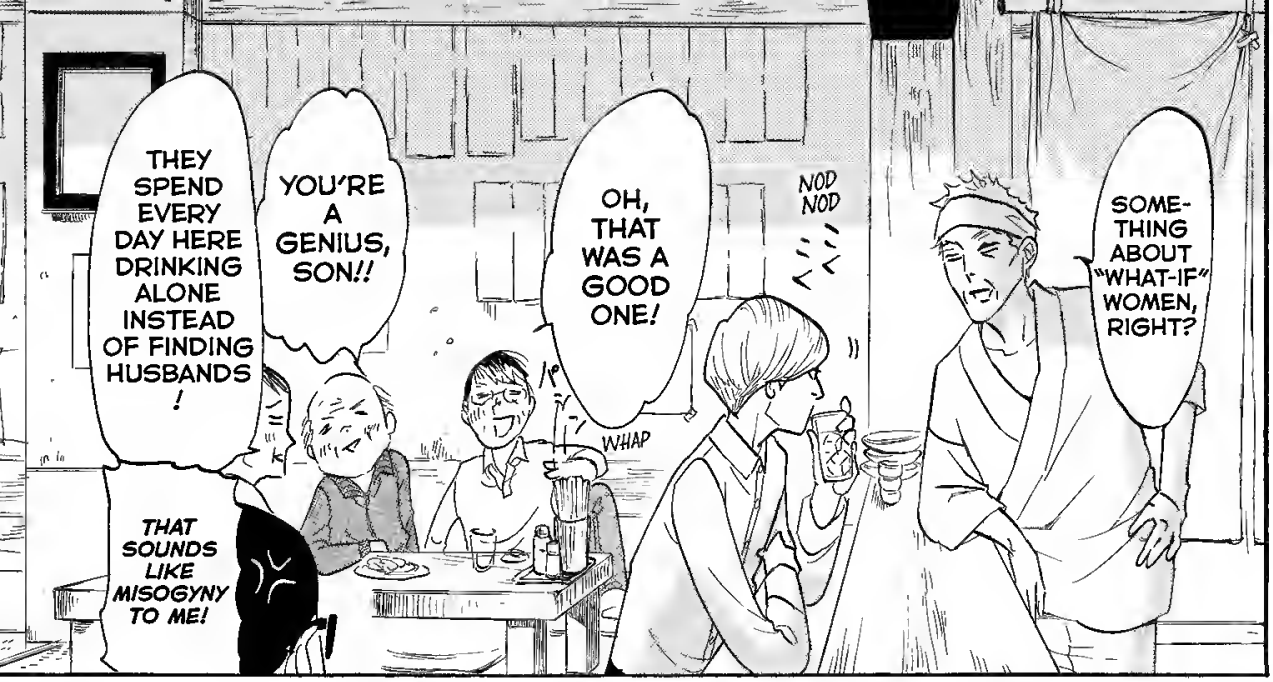
行き遅れ女の井戸端会議
OLD MAIDS' GOSSIP CIRCLE
The extent of the damage taken after thinking it over calmly a day later
ズガタタン!
KA-BOOOM
ギュー!
SKREEK-
A GAGGLE OF WHAT-IF-STORY-TELLING WHAT-IF GIRLS...
AND... HE CALLED US...
山田く
THAT BASTARD! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD ONE, THOUGH! GIVE THE GUY A CUSHION!
YAMADA!
ガ"
THUNK
ラ
!
YAMADA-KUN?
UGH...
THEY'RE HERE AGAIN.

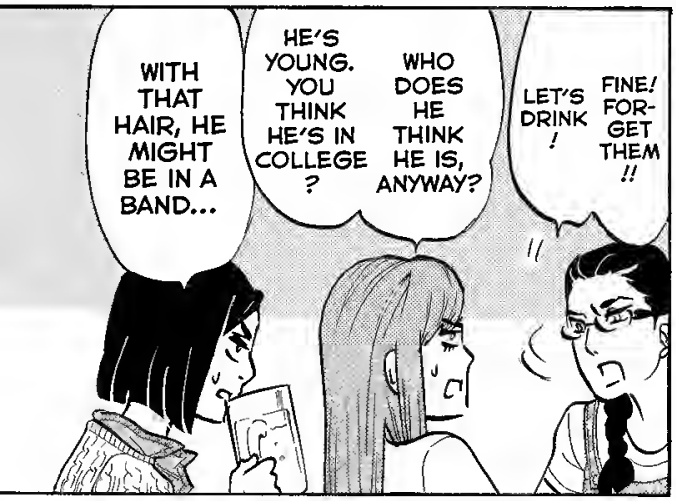

FIRST OFF...
...LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR LAST NIGHT.

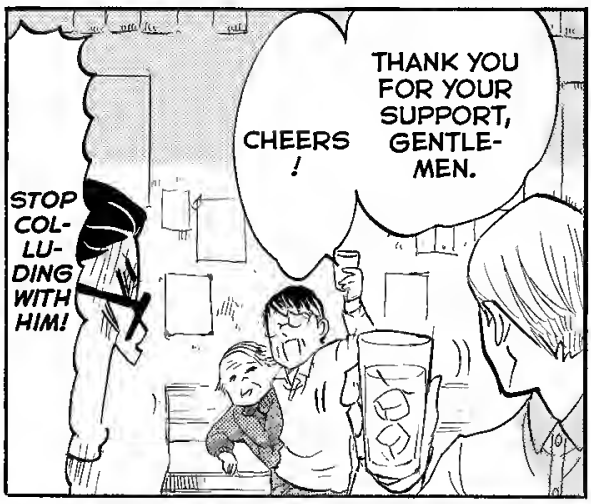

TO MAKE UP FOR THOSE THREE ALWAYS BEING SO LOUD!
AH ...
THEN, DON'T MIND IF I DO...
HEY, DAD !!
CRACK
WHY ARE YOU GIVING THAT GUY FREE LIVER? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE CALLED US LAST NIGHT?!

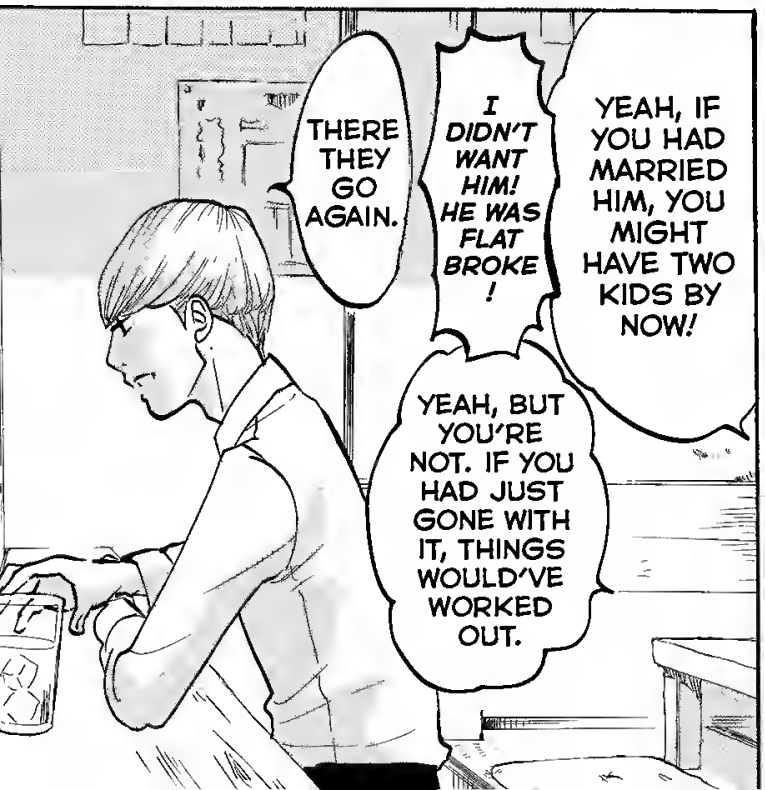
SIT OVER HERE, SIR!
HERE! ON THE HOUSE !!
MONK-FISH LIVER !!
THUNK
WHAT ?
ARE YOU SURE?

YIKES!
I'M GONNA SIT IN THE CORNER ...
FWISH


THEY SPEND EVERY DAY HERE DRINKING ALONE INSTEAD OF FINDING HUSBANDS!
YOU'RE A GENIUS, SON!!
OH, THAT WAS A GOOD ONE!
NOD NOD
SOMETHING ABOUT "WHAT-IF" WOMEN, RIGHT?
WHAP
THAT SOUNDS LIKE MISOGYNY TO ME!

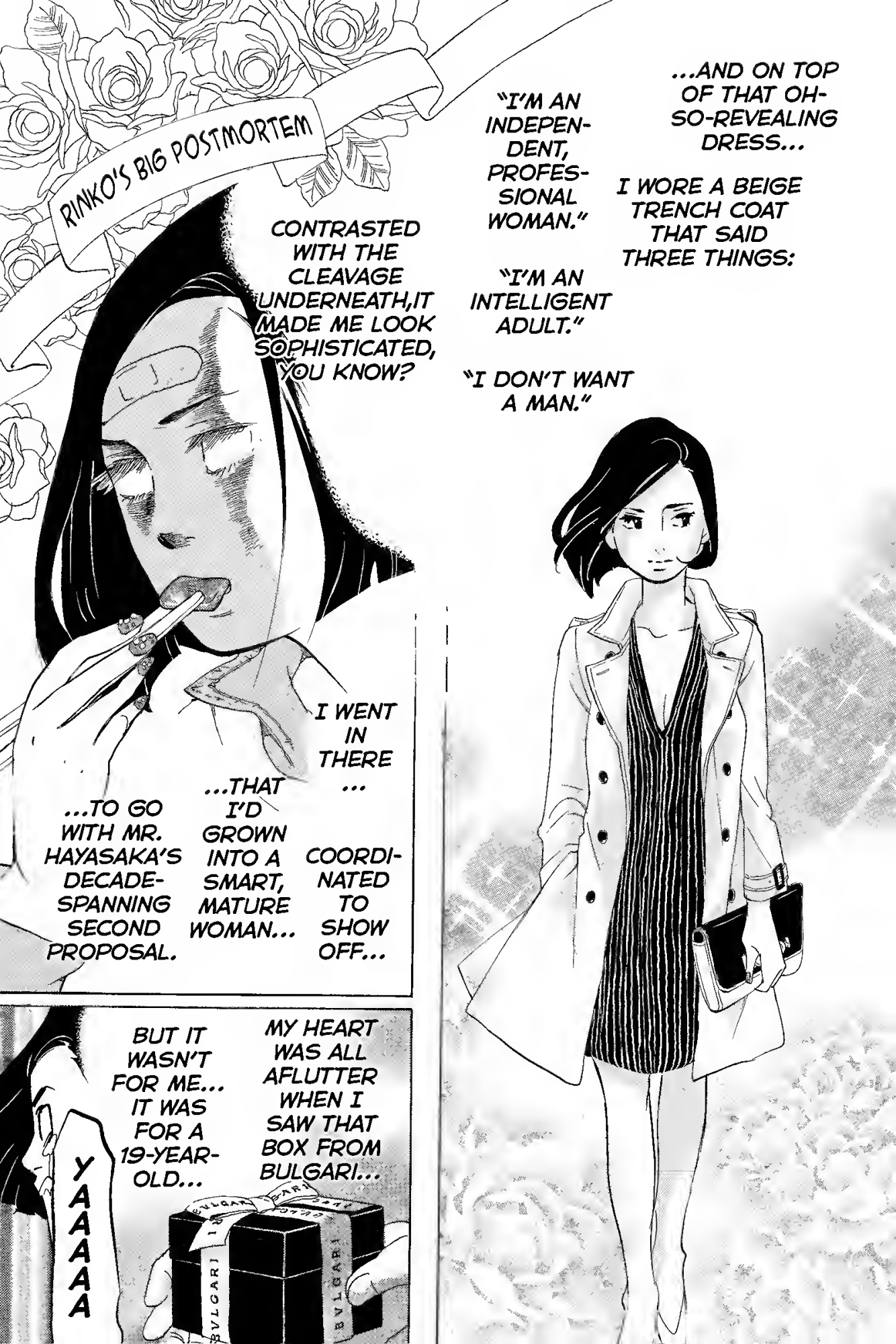

WITH THAT HAIR, HE MIGHT BE IN A BAND...
HE'S YOUNG. YOU THINK HE'S IN COLLEGE?
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ANYWAY?
LET'S DRINK!
FINE! FORGET THEM!!


STOP COLLUDING WITH HIM!
CHEERS!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, GENTLEMEN.


THERE THEY GO AGAIN.
I DIDN'T WANT HIM! HE WAS FLAT BROKE!
YEAH, IF YOU HAD MARRIED HIM, YOU MIGHT HAVE TWO KIDS BY NOW!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE NOT. IF YOU HAD JUST GONE WITH IT, THINGS WOULD'VE WORKED OUT.

HEY, YOU WENT OUT WITH ONE ONCE, DIDN'T YOU?
THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS!
I HATE MUSICIANS!
FWAP
THAT WAS AGES AGO! DON'T BRING IT UP NOW!

I WANTED TO DRINK TO FORGET ...
ALL THOSE 30-YEAR-OLD MEN WHO START PANTING AFTER ANY YOUNG CHICK SHOULD ALL DIE IN AN EXPLO-SION!
I KNOW. PLUS, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ANYONE WHO'D PROPOSE RIGHT AWAY TO A 19-YEAR-OLD WITH HALF A HEAD OF PINK HAIR WHO ONLY DRESSES IN HARAJUKU FASHION.
BUT IT STILL SERVES THAT PEDO RIGHT.
AND BOUGHT CLOTHES JUST FOR THE OCCASION...
I WENT OUT...
I MEAN...
...BUT THE DAMAGE THIS TIME WAS PRETTY BIG.
THE SHOES WERE A NICE SET OF BEIGE PUMPS TO ACCENTUATE THE LEGS...
...WITH 3.5 INCH HEELS I'D NORMALLY NEVER WEAR...
THE BAG WAS AN ELEGANT ENAMEL CLUTCH...
AND IT COST 50,000 ...
BUT THE CHEST WAS CUT NICE AND DEEP FOR THE CLEAVAGE APPEAL...
...AND IT WAS ONE OF THOSE LITTLE "I DIDN'T PUT IN VERY MUCH EFFORT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU" BLACK DRESSES.


RINKO'S BIG POSTMORTEM
CONTRASTED WITH THE CLEAVAGE UNDERNEATH, IT MADE ME LOOK SOPHISTICATED, YOU KNOW?
...TO GO WITH MR. HAYASAKA'S DECADE-SPANNING SECOND PROPOSAL.
...THAT I'D GROWN INTO A SMART, MATURE WOMAN...
I WENT IN THERE ...
COORDINATED TO SHOW OFF...
"I'M AN INDEPENDENT, PROFESSIONAL WOMAN."
"I'M AN INTELLIGENT ADULT."
"I DON'T WANT A MAN."
...AND ON TOP OF THAT OH-SO-REVEALING DRESS...
I WORE A BEIGE TRENCH COAT THAT SAID THREE THINGS:
YAAAAA
BUT IT WASN'T FOR ME... IT WAS FOR A 19-YEAR-OLD...
MY HEART WAS ALL AFLUTTER WHEN I SAW THAT BOX FROM BULGARI...
BVLGARI

AAAAAARGH!!
RINKO?!
GONK
YEOW!
THAT'S WHERE I HIT IT EARLIER!!
RINKO?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
ARE YOU DRUNK ALREADY?!
NO... SORRY... I JUST...
...WANTED TO LOSE SOME MEMORIES...
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S DRINK!
LET'S DRINK TONIGHT!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
BOSS! MILT WITH PONZU SAUCE AND LIVER STEAKS!
BOSS! MILT WITH PONZU SAUCE AND LIVER STEAKS!
...
BUT I'M GLAD...
...MAMI HAS A BOYFRIEND.
I WONDER WHAT MR. HAYASAKA WILL DO.
WILL HE RETURN THAT RING AFTER SHE REJECTS HIM?
NO, THAT IDIOT'LL PROBABLY GO AFTER HER AGAIN.

OR MAYBE ...
...HE'LL JUMP RIGHT TO THE NEXT YOUNG GIRL..
RISE
RINKO!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... LOVE ISN'T QUITE THAT SIMPLE?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
"OH! I'VE BEEN DUMPED! OH! ON TO THE NEXT ONE!"
THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT GOES. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
THERE YOU ARE AGAIN ...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...MR. HAYASAKA WILL BE DEVASTATED IF HE GETS DUMPED ?
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU SHOULD COMFORT HIM. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
HUH ?!
STOP IT. WHY SHOULD I COMFORT H-
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON HE'S TOLD ABOUT HIS FEELINGS FOR MAMI?
HE MAY NOT BE IN LOVE WITH YOU ANYMORE, BUT HE STILL DEPENDS ON YOU. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
BEING DEPENDED ON DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE ME HAPPY, YOU KNOW...
OH, NO, NO, NO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU LISTEN TO ME, RINKO?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU THREE ARE OUT OF TIME?
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO NURTURE YOUR CONNECTIONS AND TAKE EVERY CHANCE AT ROMANCE, SO YOU'RE PREPARED FOR YOUR NEXT SHOT. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
FWAP
THE CHANCES OF BECOMING A COUPLE ON THE SECOND TRY IS 30%!!
TAKE EVERY CHANCE?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... SINCE MR. HAYASAKA HAS ALREADY FALLEN FOR YOU ONCE...
THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT!! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

What-if Bar
GULP
EHEHEH...
AHAHA...
GULP
RINKO...
LET'S GO DRINKING! MY TREAT!
CHEER UP, MR. HAYA-SAKA!!
SIGH...
RINKO... I'VE BEEN... REJEC-TED...
MAMI HAS...A BOY-FRIEND...
HUH?
SHE DOES?
ALTHOUGH I REALIZE THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN...
I DON'T THINK WE'D GO THAT FAR...
I—
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
SIGH...
WH-
WHAT?!
THANKSH FOR THE BOOSH!
SEE YA, BOSS!
ハムかつ 300
チーズフライ 450
ちくわ磯辺揚 400
煮豚 600
ゲラハハハ
BWA
GULP
SIGH...
THEY DRANK WAY TOO MUCH AGAIN...
AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN MARRIED YET...

...
I BET YOU'RE A PEDO TOO, RIGHT?!
YOU!
BLONDIE!
BEEP
ピ
HEY, YEAH!
AH!
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT PEDO TO GET REJECT–
I FEEL A LOT BETTER!
PHEW!
ガー
THUNK
16-NORE
WHY ARE YOU BLONDE, ANYWAY?
LIS-TEN ...
ゲラ
BWAHA-HAHA!
AHAHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA!
HEY! HEY!
YES!!
ALL JAPANESE MEN ARE PEDOS!
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガっ
CRASH
ガッシャン
KA-BAM
ターン
WHAP
WHOA!
HEY!
STAGGER
EEK!
WHAP
!

UGH–
OUCH!
WHOA!
RINKO! ARE YOU OKAY?!
UGH…
NO, NOT REAL-LY…
HEY, YOU!!
STOP PLAYING WITH YOUR PHONE AND GIVE US A HAND!
…
WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU?
DIDN'T YOU DECIDE TO GO DRINKING AND DECIDE TO GET WASTED?
WHA?!
SIGH…
THOSE POOR, BEAUTIFUL CAMELLIAS…
YOU KNOW MEN WILL ONLY HELP YOU UP WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK IF YOU'RE UNDER 25, RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT GIRLS ANYMORE, ARE YOU,
LADIES?
IN YOUR THIRTIES, YOU HAVE TO STAND UP ON YOUR OWN!!
WE'RE NOT...
... GIRLS ?
HUH?
IS THAT RIGHT?
WE'RE NOT...
...GIRLS ANY-MORE?

HOW WILL WE LOOK, AS WE WALK THROUGH...
IF WE'RE STILL ALONE IN SIX YEARS...
THERE ARE SIX MORE YEARS UNTIL THE OLYMPICS.
THEN, WE'LL BE 40.
ごりんばし
FIVE RINGS BRIDGE

...REGRETTING THAT OUR 33-YEAR-OLD SELVES DIDN'T PUT IN ANY WORK TOWARDS FINDING HUSBANDS, AND SPENT ALL OUR TIME...
WILL WE BE WALKING ALONG...
...THE FESTIVE, OLYMPIC STREETS OF TOKYO?
...DRINKING WITH THE GIRLS?
...OR IF WE HAD ONLY TRIED HARDER ...
...AND TELL MORE WHAT-IF STORIES ABOUT WHETHER THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF WE DID THIS...
AND THEN, WILL WE GO RIGHT BACK TO THAT SAME BAR...
...AS WE DRINK...
...AND CONTINUE OUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT EVEN WHEN WE'RE 40?

IN FACT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO MEET PEOPLE WE CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ALL THAT.

IF THINGS GO WELL, THAT'S GREAT, BUT IF NOT, WE'LL HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN.

TELLING HIM HOW WE FEEL...

FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM...

FINDING A NEW MAN...

BECAUSE IF I'M NOT A "GIRL" ANYMORE...

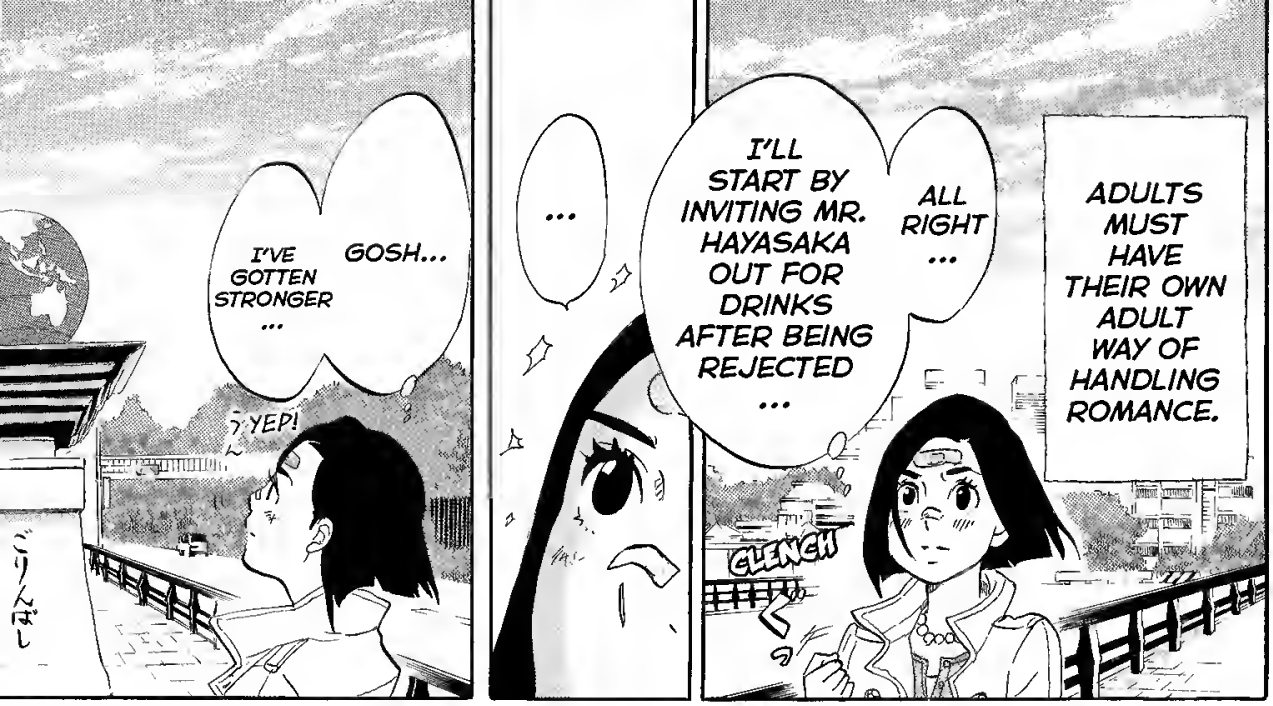
...THEN I CAN'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE STORYBOOK ROMANCES ANYWAYS.

...IS AN OPTION TOO.

I FEEL LIKE NURTURING THOSE EMOTIONS I FELT TOWARDS MR. HAYASAKA BACK THEN...

IN THAT CASE...

...MAYBE I'LL STICK IT OUT JUST A LITTLE LONGER.


ADULTS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN ADULT WAY OF HANDLING ROMANCE.
ALL RIGHT ...
I'LL START BY INVITING MR. HAYASAKA OUT FOR DRINKS AFTER BEING REJECTED ...
...
CLENCH
GOSH... I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER ...
YEP!

GOOD MORNING!
RINKO ... THIS IS SOOO SUP-RISING, BUT...
LAST NIGHT... MR. HAYASAKA ASKED ME OUT...
Hello
YEP! I ALREADY HEARD.
SO? WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU TOLD HIM YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
SMILE

AFTER WE TALKED FOR A BIT, I GOT TO THINKING HE MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD, YOU KNOW?
ACTUALLY, I DECIDED TO GIVE IT A SHOT!!
SPARKLE
MAMI? UM...
WH- WAIT...
WHAT ABOUT...
YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S A RING FROM... BULGARI?
IT HAD TO BE EXPEN-SIVE, RIGHT?!
OLDER MEN HAVE SO MUCH MONEY! AM I RIGHT?
OH, WELL!
I THINK I'LL GO OUT WITH THEM BOTH FOR A WHILE!!
I MEAN, MY BOYFRIEND'S ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE?
AND MR. HAYASAKA SAID THAT WAS OKAY TOO!
SO WE'RE GOING TO A HOT SPRINGS TOGETHER THIS WEEK-END!
IT WAS THIS... WHAT WAS IT? SUPER-FANCY PLACE IN HAKONE... SOME FAMOUS THING THERE, YOU KNOW...

I HEAR THERE ARE OPEN-AIR BATHS ATTACHED TO THE HOTEL ROOMS...
AND HE SAID THE FOOD'S REALLY GOOD, TOO.
CRICK
CRUNCH
WHOOSH
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WE WERE RIGHT ?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN IT A SHOT WITH HIM TEN YEARS AGO, RINKO?
IF YOU HAD DONE THAT, YOU MIGHT BE A BIG-SHOT SCRIPTWRITER WITH A GREAT JOB AND A REAL DIRECTOR FOR A HUSBAND!! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

I CAN'T STAND UP.

AHA HA HA HA HA HA

SPLAT

FOR LOOKING DOWN ON A MAN BECAUSE OF HOW HE LOOKS! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THIS IS YOUR PAYBACK?

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK ON MY FEET.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, MISTER.

IN YOUR THIRTIES, YOU HAVE TO STAND UP ON YOUR OWN!!

...AND LAUGHED AT THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO SPENT ALL THEIR TIME GOING TO MIXERS...

WE PITIED ALL OUR CLASSMATES WHO MARRIED BORING GUYS...

...AND COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW WE NEVER MET ANY GOOD MEN...OR HOW THERE WEREN'T ANY GOOD MEN...

I MEAN, FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS...

...ALL WE'VE DONE IS GONE DRINKING UNDER THE NAME "GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT"...

...WATCHING EVERYONE ELSE PLAY THEIR HEARTS OUT...
...SITTING ON THE BENCH...
BUT HERE WE ARE IN OUR THIRTIES...
...WHILE WE RUN OUR MOUTHS LIKE WE KNOW BETTER THAN THEM.
... CONFIDENT THAT WE COULD JOIN IN ANYTIME.
STILL WEARING OUR UNIFORMS...

THEN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH WITH TWO OUTS AND THE BASES LOADED, I STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE TO PINCH HIT.
SINCE I'D BEEN KEPT WAITING SO LONG, I STEPPED UP TO BAT BELIEVING I'D BE THE BIG HERO WHO TURNED THIS GAME AROUND WITH A HOME RUN.
BUT ...
WHIFF
...
HUH?
RINKO!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOUR SWING'S GOTTEN A LOT SLOWER SINCE YOUR TWENTIES?
YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED IN SO LONG, YOU'VE LOST YOUR EDGE! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

SO...
...YOU HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THE TEAM!
NOOO
アアアアアア!!
TARAREBA
PLOP
PLOP

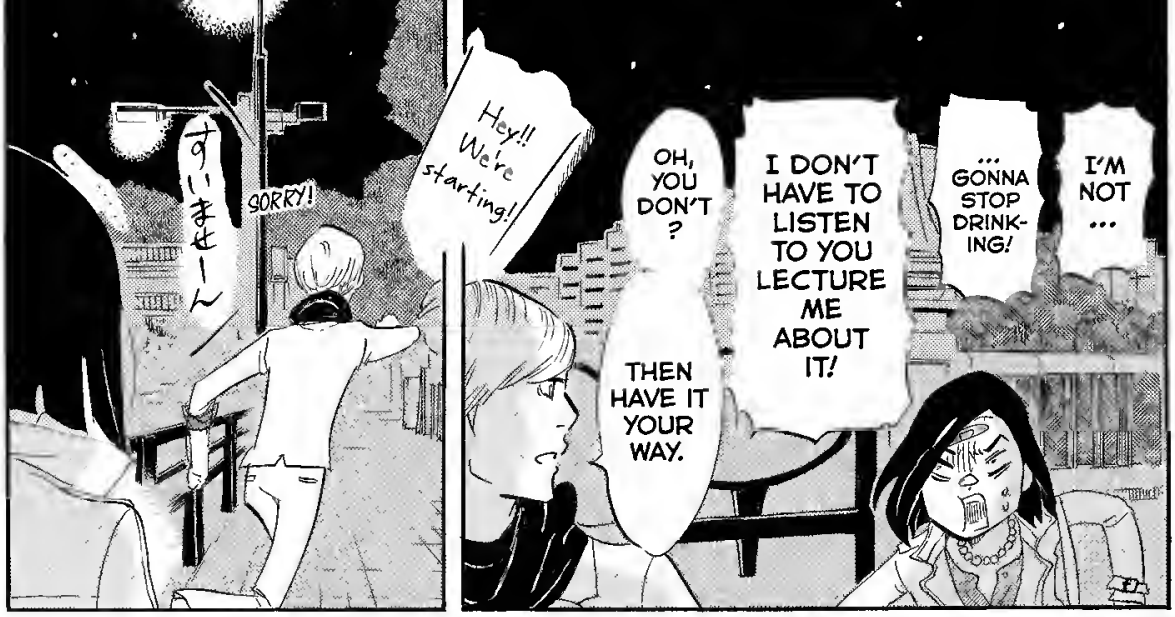
SIGH ...
I'M TIRED...
THIS ISN'T EVEN WORTH CALLING A FOUR ALARM OVER...
Not after yesterday ...
Four Alarm!!!!
ピ...
BEEP
...
OH ...
NO... DON'T BOTHER ...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO WARM THAT FOR YOU, MA'AM?
RAWSON
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
I'LL JUST BUY SOMETHING AT A CONVENIENCE STORE FOR TONIGHT ...
...
SPECIAL 特集
大人の恋のはじめかた
HOW TO BEGIN A MATURE RELATIONSHIP

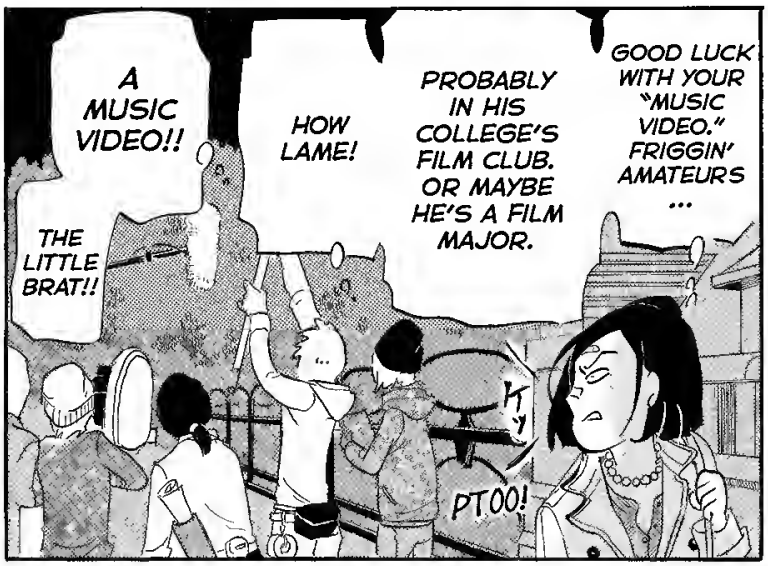
FIVE RINGS BRIDGE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
HEH...
I BOUGHT IT, YOU BAS-TARDS!
Come again!
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!
THEY'RE ALWAYS SHOOTING SOME-THING HERE...
HMM?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH...
THEY'RE DOING SOME SORT OF SHOOT...
HUH?!
It talked?
HUH?
I RAN INTO THAT STUPID GLOBE AGAIN...
DAMN IT...
WHOA!
BUMP
I'LL TAKE A DIFFERENT WAY HOME.
TURN

IT'S MS. WHAT-IF!
WHAT A SHOCK!

WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SAY ...
WHY'D YOU TURN AROUND SO FAST, MA'AM?
I can't handle that personality of yours.
DON'T CALL ME "MA'AM" !!
I-I'M JUST THIRTY-SOMETHING !!
THERE IT IS AGAIN.
GRR!
YOUR ESCAPIST EUPHEMISMS.
I'M NOT ESCAPING ANYTHING !!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY ?!
THIS IS MY TERRITORY!
HUH?
A FILM SHOOT.
WE'RE FILMING A VIDEO FOR MY FRIEND'S BAND.

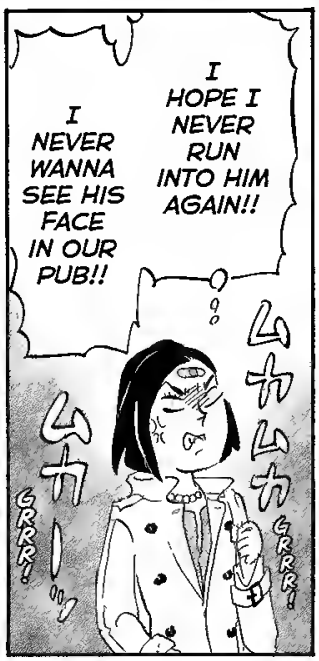
HA!
A MUSIC VIDEO?!
YOU YOUNG PEOPLE SURE KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN!
YES, WELL.
IT'S MORE FUN THAN YOUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT.
HEY!!
WE'RE ABOUT TO START!
OH.
COM-ING!
GRR! GRR!
WELL, SEE YOU AROUND!
OH.
IS YOUR NOSE...
...FEELING ALL RIGHT?
HUH?!
YOU FELL ON IT PRETTY HARD LAST NIGHT...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE BROKEN IT.
OH ...
NO ...
THANKS FOR YOUR CON-CERN ...
I ONLY SKINNED IT A LITTLE ...
H-How embarrass-ing...
AH, I SEE.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP DRINKING?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN STAND TO LOOK AT A THIRTY-SOMETHING WITH HER FACE ALL BANDAGED UP.
!!!!


すいませーん
SORRY!
Hey!! We're starting!
OH, YOU DON'T ?
THEN HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU LECTURE ME ABOUT IT!
... GONNA STOP DRINK-ING!
I'M NOT ...

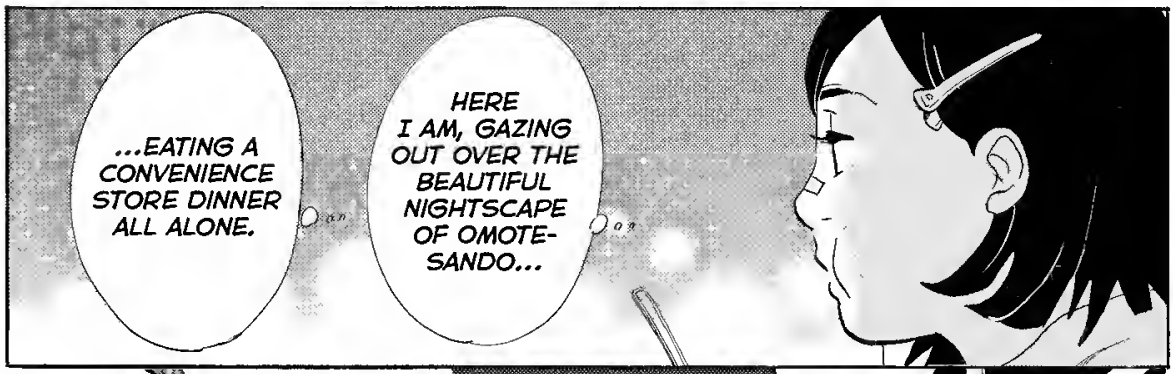

A MUSIC VIDEO!!
HOW LAME!
PROBABLY IN HIS COLLEGE'S FILM CLUB. OR MAYBE HE'S A FILM MAJOR.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR "MUSIC VIDEO." FRIGGIN' AMATEURS ...
THE LITTLE BRAT!!
PTOO!

WHO DOES THAT PUNK THINK HE IS?
HE TALKS LIKE THAT, EVEN WHEN HE'S SOBER ...

PLOP


I HOPE I NEVER RUN INTO HIM AGAIN!!
I NEVER WANNA SEE HIS FACE IN OUR PUB!!
GRRR!
GRRR!

DING


...EATING A CONVENIENCE STORE DINNER ALL ALONE.
HERE I AM, GAZING OUT OVER THE BEAUTIFUL NIGHTSCAPE OF OMOTE-SANDO...

...HAVE TEARS LEFT TO CRY.
I DON'T EVEN ...
OH, WOW...
...EVERYTHING JUST FEELS SO...
BUT NOW...
...OR GOT DUMPED, I'D CRY UNTIL THE SUN CAME UP.
IF I WAS SAD OR FRUSTRA-TED...
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER ...
...HOLLOW.
DRY
Asahi

MHUMP
SAVE ME, SPECIAL "MATURE LOVE" EDITION!!
IF I LET THIS EMPTINESS ENVELOP ME, I'M DONE FOR!!
THIS IS TER-RIBLE ...
THIS IS... REALLY BAD...
GRAB
...
THIS IS BAD ...
KEY
KEY. MODEL.
EJIMA, TAKA...
ACTOR
俳優
江島タ
今一番気になる男たち
THE MEN WE'RE MOST INTERESTED IN NOW

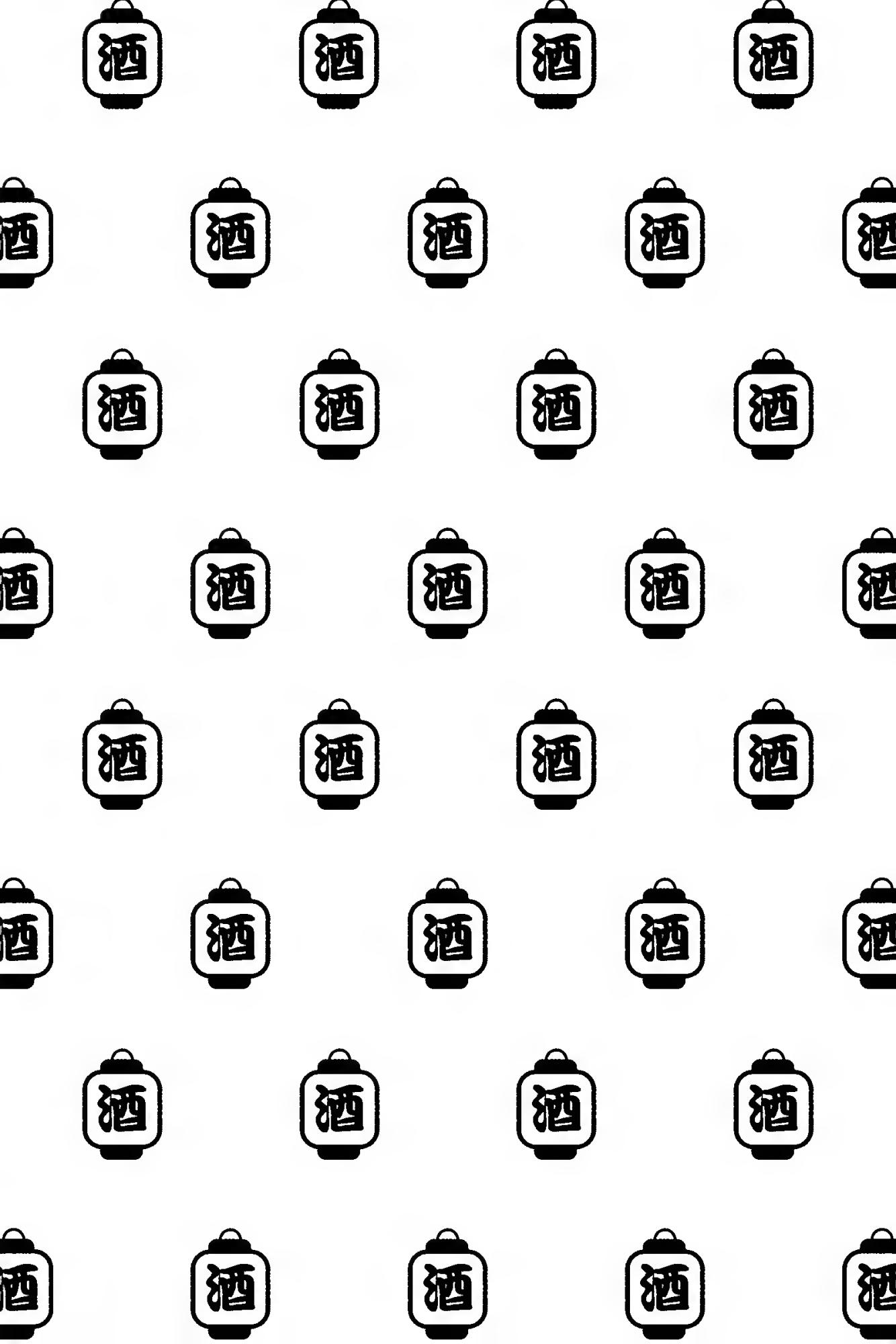
THE MEN WE'RE MOST INTERESTED IN NOW

今、一番気になる男たち

KEY

KEY. MODEL.

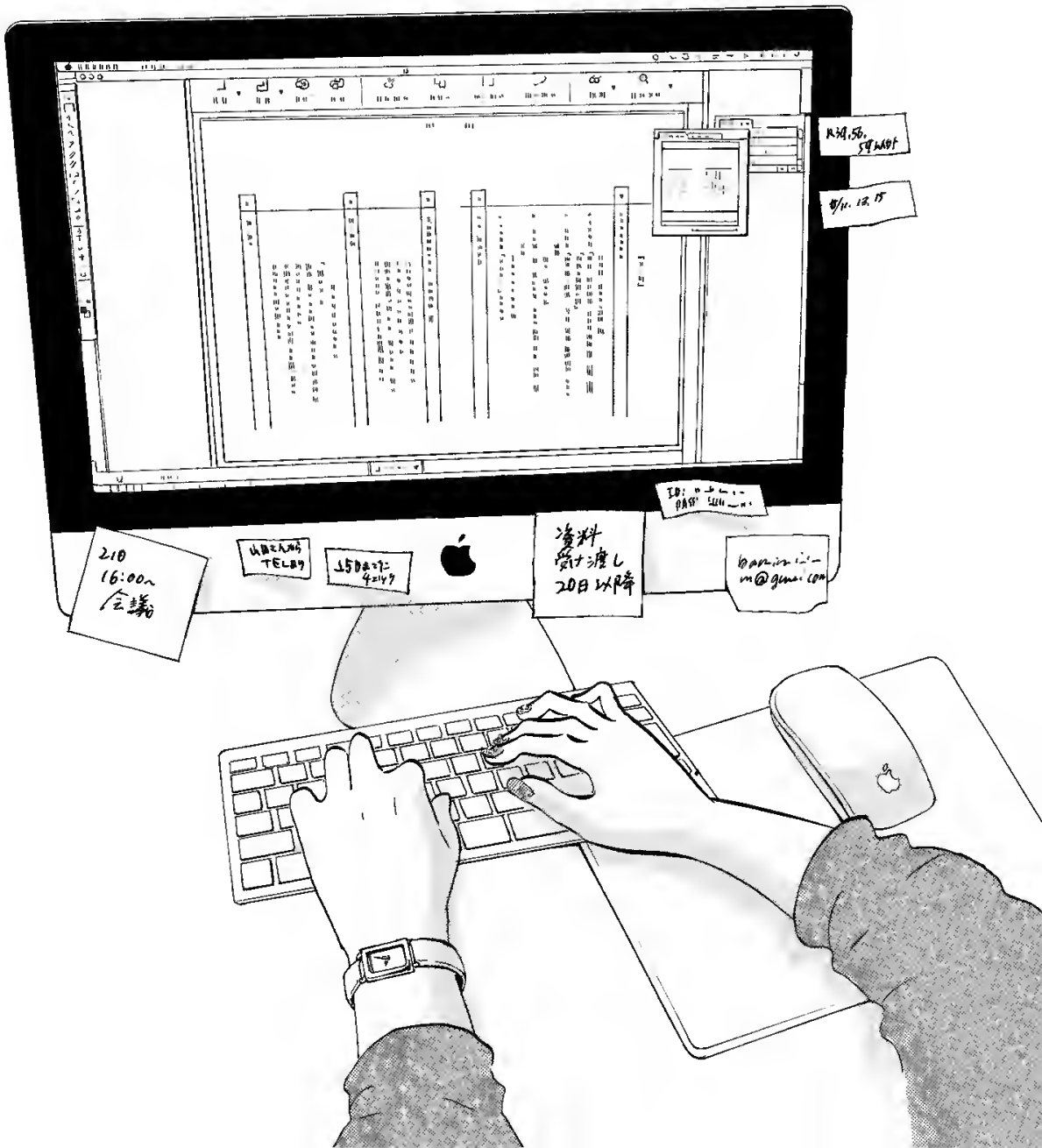
キー・モデル


酒

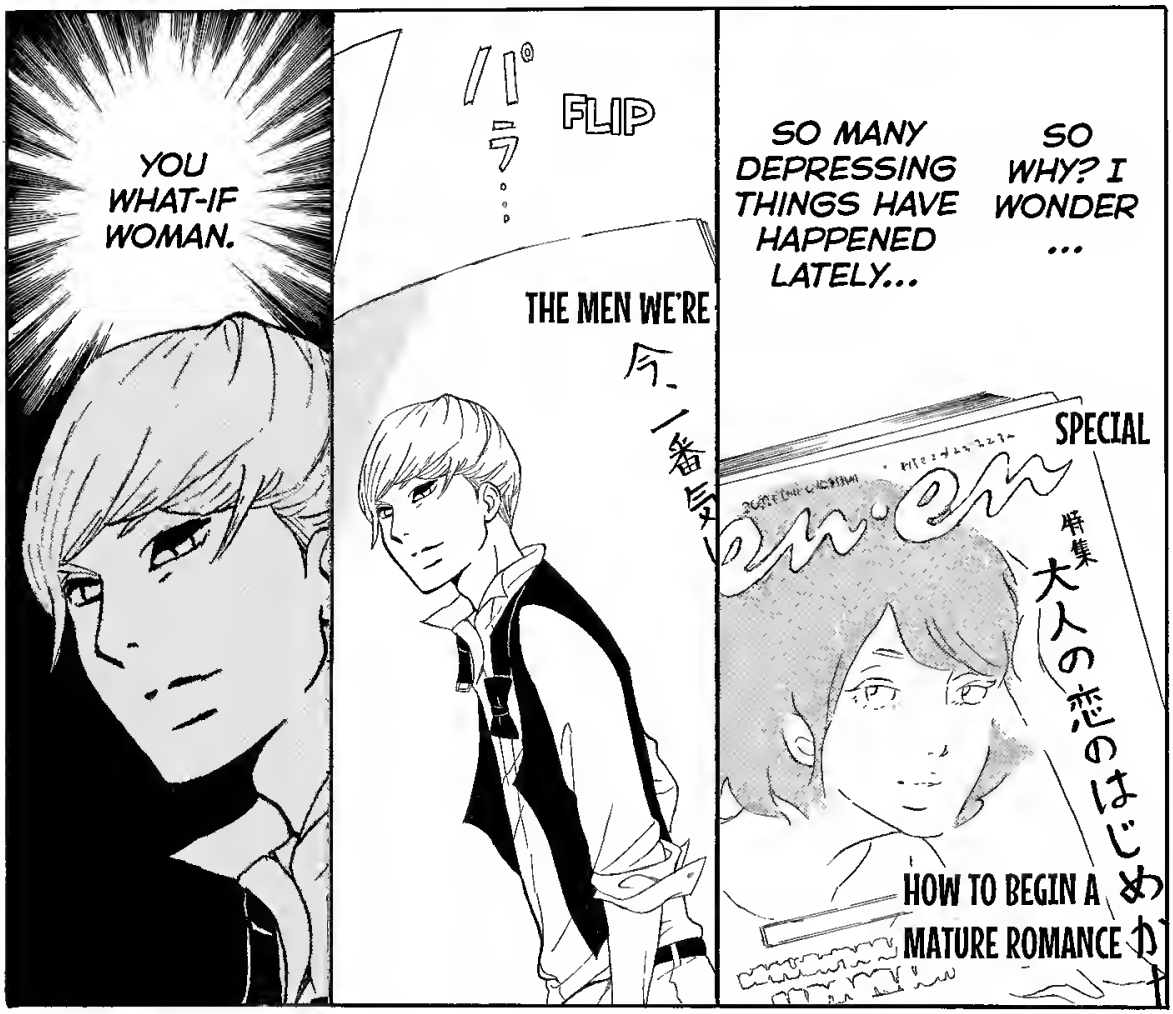
ACT 3 HONEY TOAST WOMAN

I'M THE HEROINE OF THIS LONG, LONG SCREENPLAY KNOWN AS LIFE.

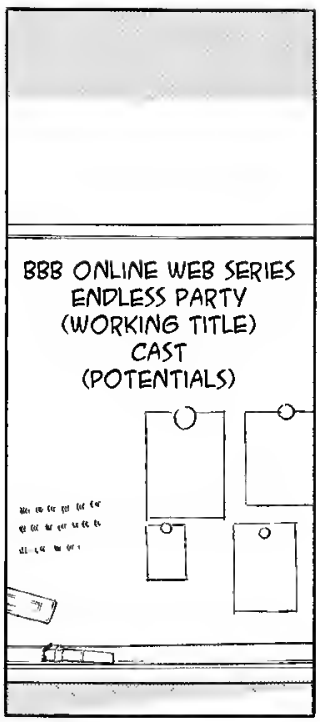
NO MATTER HOW OLD I GET, I'M STILL THE STAR.



I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A HAPPY THING.

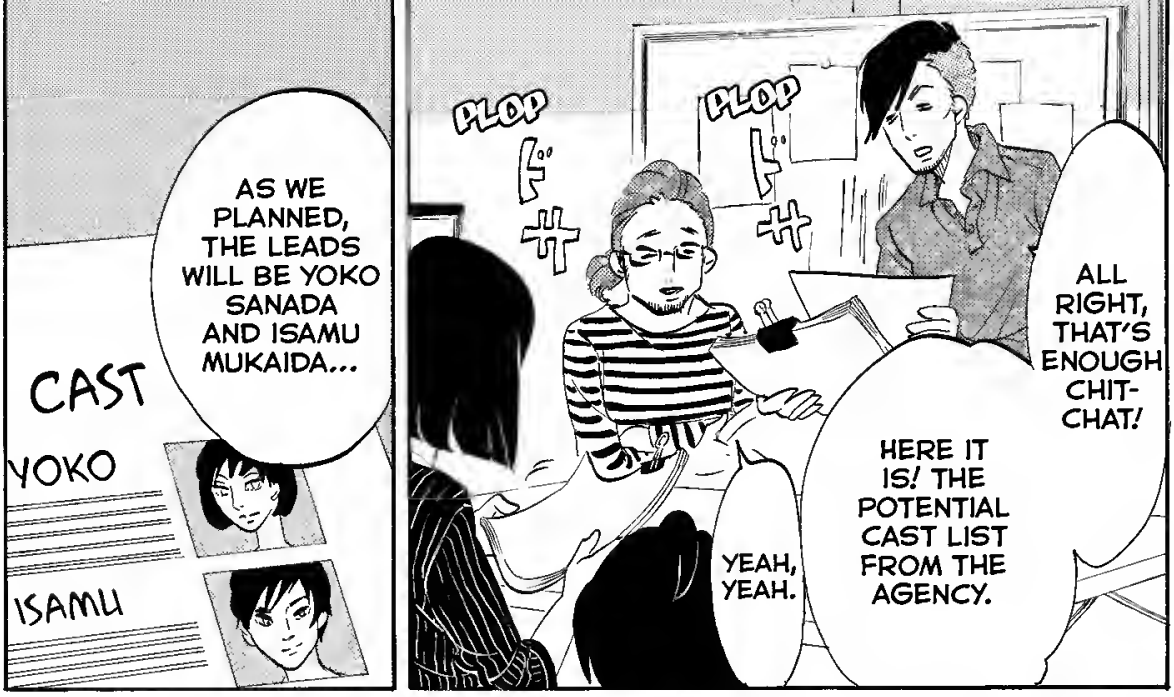

SO WHY? I WONDER ...
SO MANY DEPRESSING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED LATELY...
SPECIAL
特集 大人の恋のはじめかた
HOW TO BEGIN A MATURE ROMANCE
パラ… FLIP
THE MEN WE'RE
今、一番気
YOU WHAT-IF WOMAN.

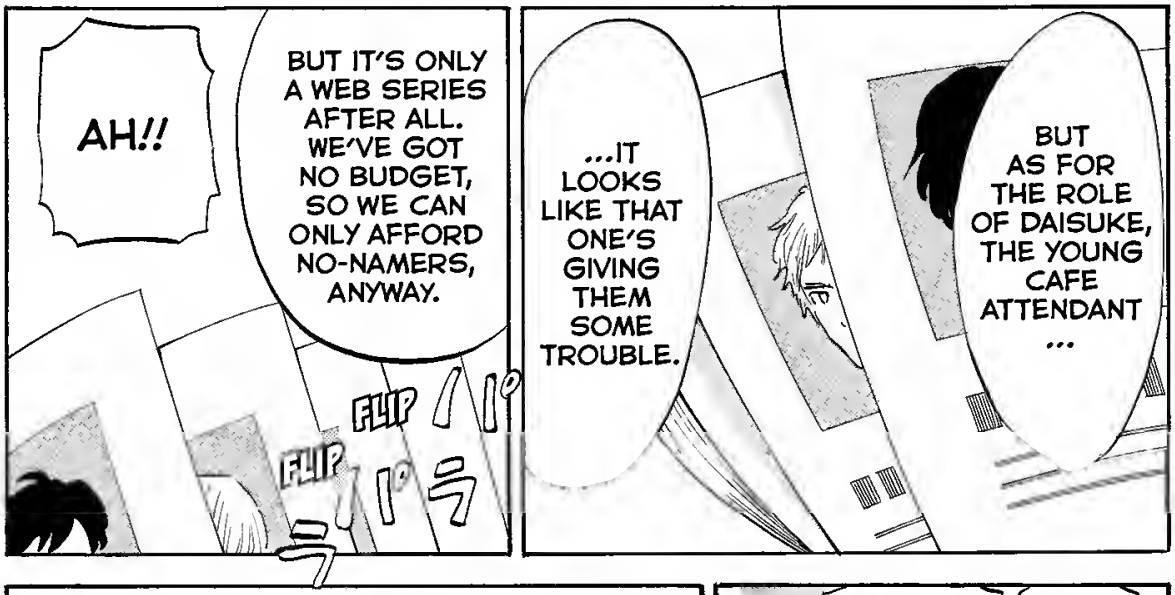
YOU'RE NOT GIRLS ANYMORE, ARE YOU?
LADIES!!!!
YOU KNOW MEN WILL ONLY HELP YOU UP WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK WHEN YOU'RE UNDER 25, RIGHT?

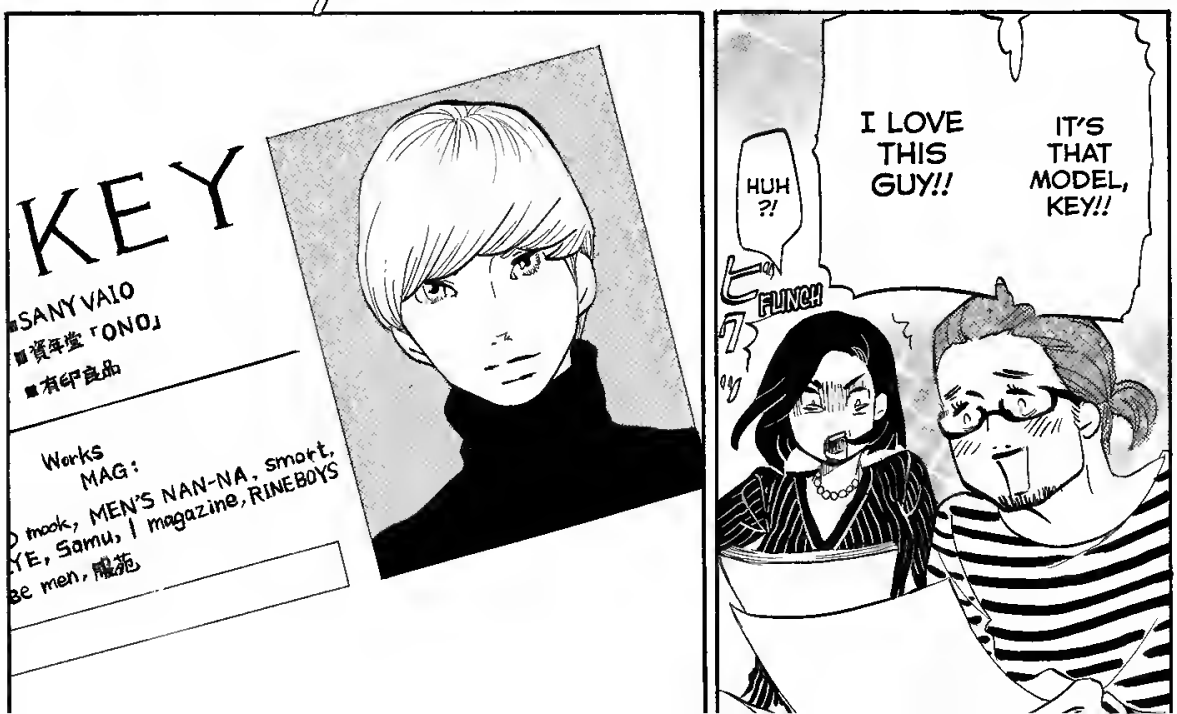

BBB ONLINE WEB SERIES
ENDLESS PARTY
(WORKING TITLE)
CAST
(POTENTIALS)

IT FEELS LIKE THE CRITICISM'S GETTING TOO HARSH...
...FOR ME TO PLAY THE LEAD ANYMORE
...

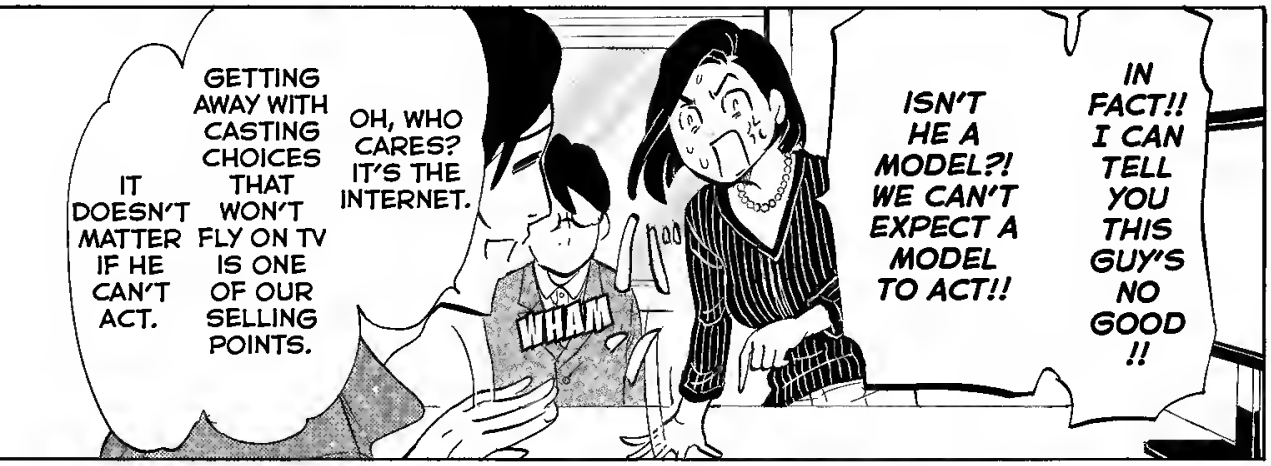
I JUST ...
I'M SORRY! I'M NOT SLEEPY!
SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPY BECAUSE SHE WAS UP ALL NIGHT POUNDING OUT THIS SCRIPT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T YOU PAY ATTENTION?
ARE YOU LISTENING?!
RINKO!!
RINKO!
GASP
WELL... UM...
NO ...
HUH?!
YOU'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND NOW, RINKO?
HA HA...
MAYBE ...
A MAN?
IS IT A MAN?
WHAT?
HUH?!
HEH!
MAMI, MAMI, MAMI! SHUT UP!
GRIT
BECAUSE MAMI REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU, RINKO...
SHE'S ALWAYS WONDERING IF THERE'S A NICE GUY OUT THERE FOR YOU.
THAT'S GREAT! MAMI AND I WERE WORRIED ABOUT THAT VERY THING!

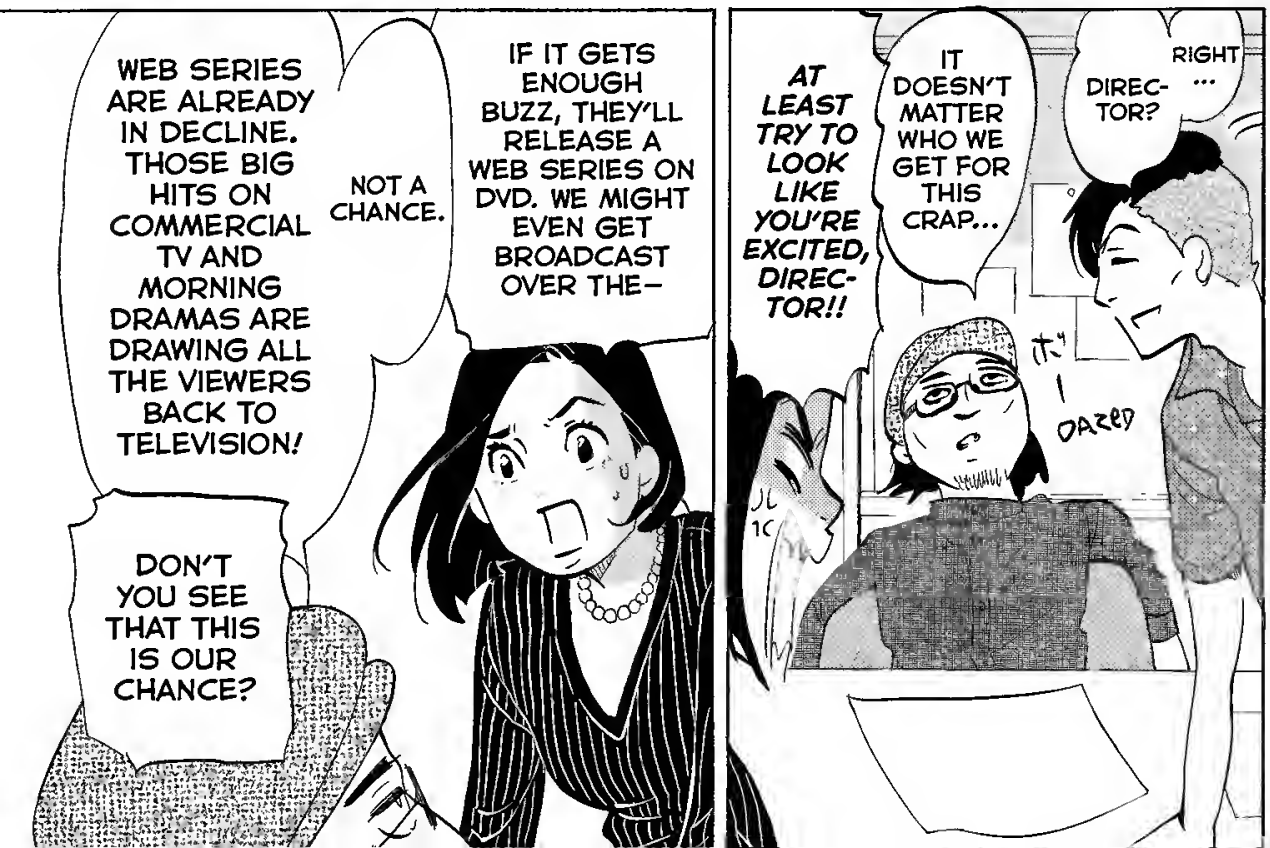

AS WE PLANNED, THE LEADS WILL BE YOKO SANADA AND ISAMU MUKAIDA...
CAST
YOKO
ISAMU
PLOP
PLOP
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT!
HERE IT IS! THE POTENTIAL CAST LIST FROM THE AGENCY.
YEAH, YEAH.

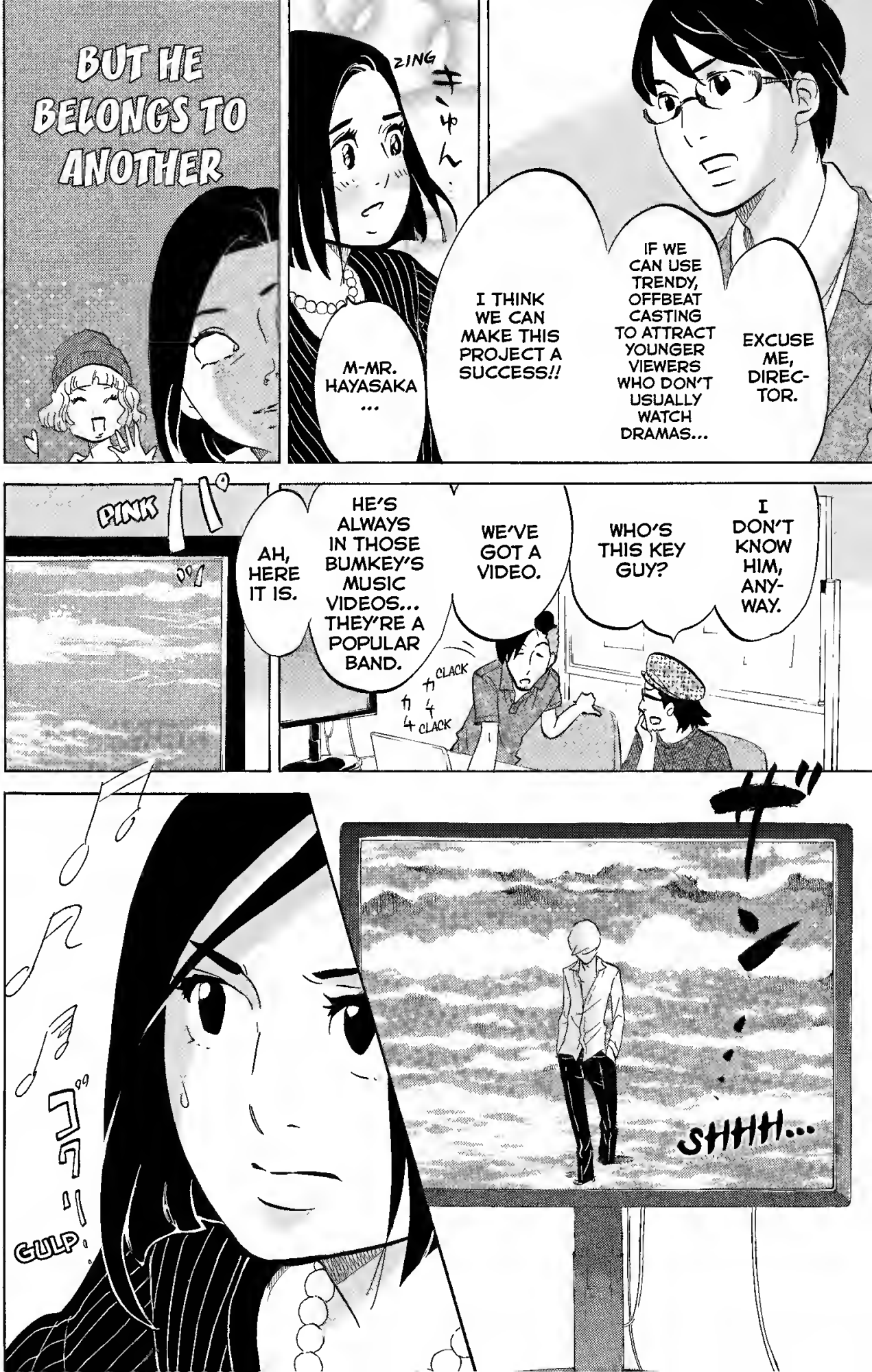

AH!!
BUT IT'S ONLY A WEB SERIES AFTER ALL. WE'VE GOT NO BUDGET, SO WE CAN ONLY AFFORD NO-NAMERS, ANYWAY.
FLIP
FLIP
...IT LOOKS LIKE THAT ONE'S GIVING THEM SOME TROUBLE.
BUT AS FOR THE ROLE OF DAISUKE, THE YOUNG CAFE ATTENDANT ...


KEY
■SANY VAIO
■資生堂「ONO」
■有印良品
Works
MAG:
mook, MEN'S NAN-NA, smart,
YE, samu, | magazine, RINEBOYS
be men, 雑誌
IT'S THAT MODEL, KEY!!
I LOVE THIS GUY!!
HUH ?!
FLINCH!

OH! HE'S BEEN GETTING BIG LATELY, HASN'T HE?
DO YOU KNOW HIM, RINKO?
YEAH ...
I KNOW HIM ...
OH!
EVEN THE THIRTY-SOME-THINGS KNOW HIM.
YEAH, I'M THIRTY-SOME-THING!
33 is still thirty-some-thing !!
BOOM


IN FACT!! I CAN TELL YOU THIS GUY'S NO GOOD !!
ISN'T HE A MODEL?! WE CAN'T EXPECT A MODEL TO ACT!!
OH, WHO CARES? IT'S THE INTERNET.
GETTING AWAY WITH CASTING CHOICES THAT WON'T FLY ON TV IS ONE OF OUR SELLING POINTS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE CAN'T ACT.
WHAM

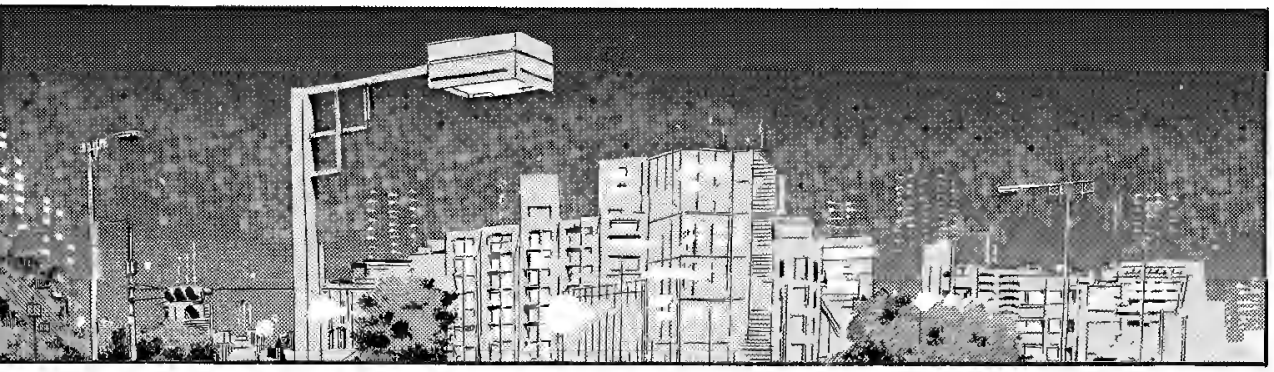

RIGHT ...
DIREC-TOR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WE GET FOR THIS CRAP...
AT LEAST TRY TO LOOK LIKE YOU'RE EXCITED, DIREC-TOR!!
ボー
DAZED
IF IT GETS ENOUGH BUZZ, THEY'LL RELEASE A WEB SERIES ON DVD. WE MIGHT EVEN GET BROADCAST OVER THE—
NOT A CHANCE.
WEB SERIES ARE ALREADY IN DECLINE. THOSE BIG HITS ON COMMERCIAL TV AND MORNING DRAMAS ARE DRAWING ALL THE VIEWERS BACK TO TELEVISION!
DON'T YOU SEE THAT THIS IS OUR CHANCE?


BUT HE BELONGS TO ANOTHER
ZING
キュン
M-MR. HAYASAKA ...
I THINK WE CAN MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS!!
IF WE CAN USE TRENDY, OFFBEAT CASTING TO ATTRACT YOUNGER VIEWERS WHO DON'T USUALLY WATCH DRAMAS...
EXCUSE ME, DIRECTOR.
PINK
AH, HERE IT IS.
HE'S ALWAYS IN THOSE BUMKEY'S MUSIC VIDEOS... THEY'RE A POPULAR BAND.
WE'VE GOT A VIDEO.
WHO'S THIS KEY GUY?
I DON'T KNOW HIM, ANY-WAY.
CLACK
CLACK
SHHH...
GULP

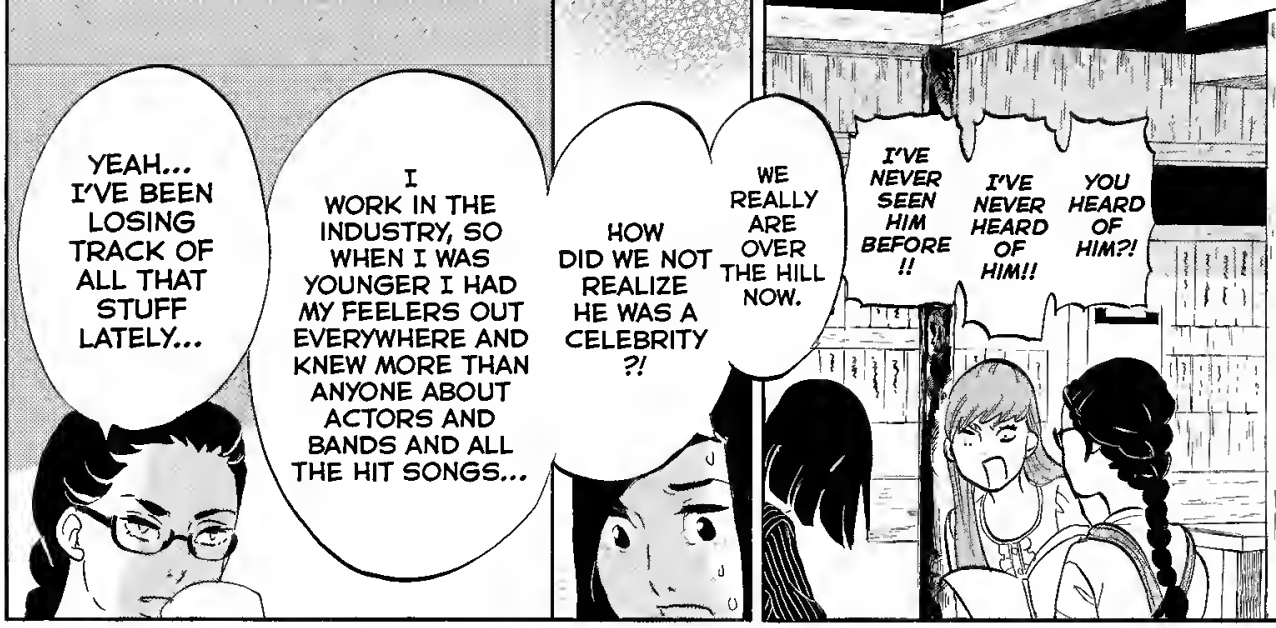
SHHH...

BA-DUMP
RUSTLE
...BUT HE LOOKS PRETTY MASCU-LINE IN MOTION...
IN THE PICTURE, I THOUGHT HE HAD A GIRLY FACE...
THEN LET'S GO WITH HIM.
THE FEMALE LEAD IS 5'7", SO I WAS THINKING WE NEEDED A TALL BOY.
PER-FECT.
6'1".
HOW TALL IS HE?
HE REALLY IS A HOTTIE!
OH, HE'S AMAZING!!

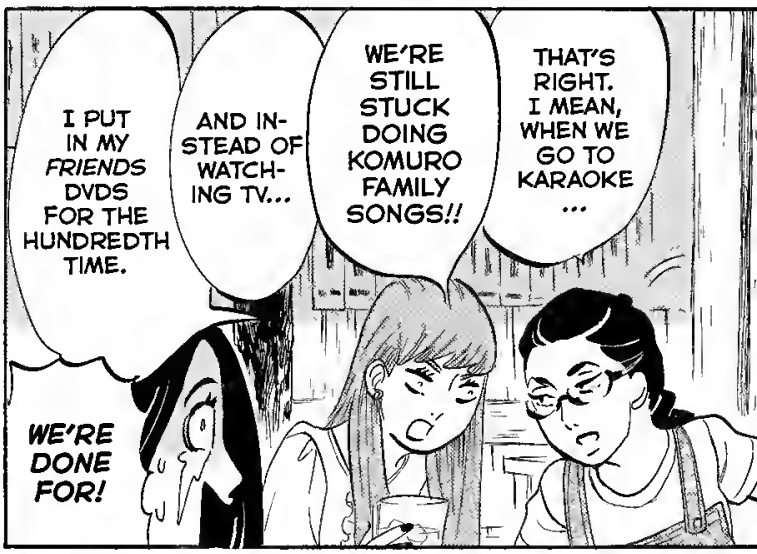
WAIT, THIS GUY'S JUST ...
WELL... HE'S NOT WHAT I PICTURED IN MY HEAD!
IN THE SCRIPT, I IMAGINED HIM AS MORE THE NAIVE, AVERAGE TYPE...
I LIKE HIM.
SET UP A MEETING.



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
GAH!
NONBEE
酒処 呑んべえ
PUB

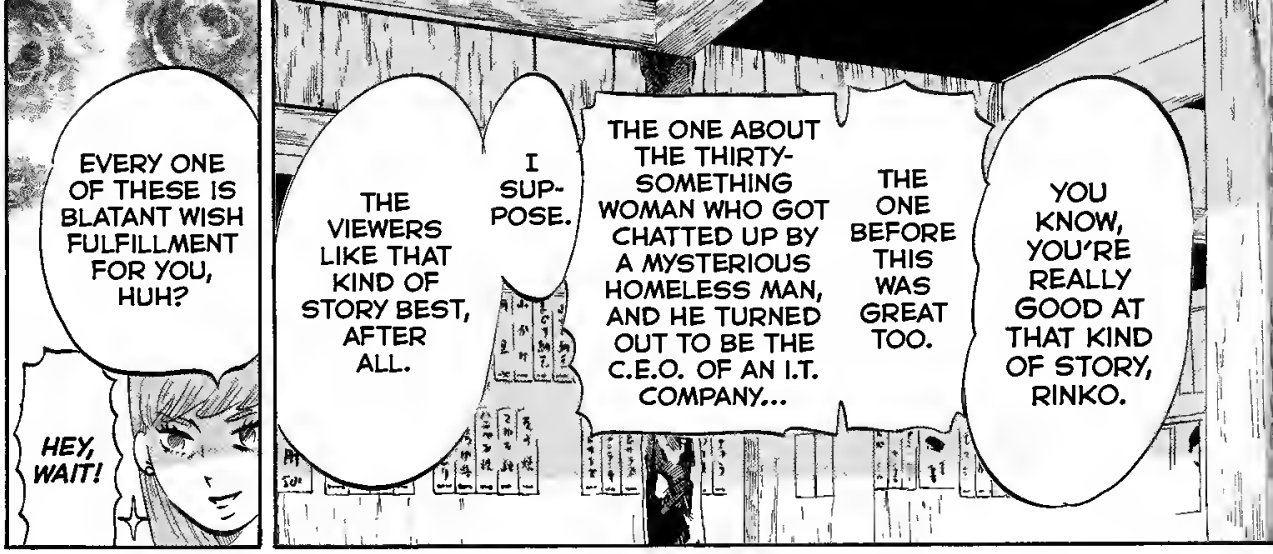

YEAH... I'VE BEEN LOSING TRACK OF ALL THAT STUFF LATELY...
I WORK IN THE INDUSTRY, SO WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I HAD MY FEELERS OUT EVERYWHERE AND KNEW MORE THAN ANYONE ABOUT ACTORS AND BANDS AND ALL THE HIT SONGS...
HOW DID WE NOT REALIZE HE WAS A CELEBRITY ?!
WE REALLY ARE OVER THE HILL NOW.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE !!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM!!
YOU HEARD OF HIM?!

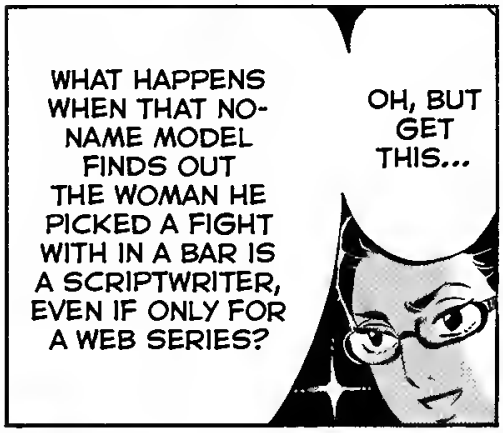
IT'S NO USE! NOW THEY'RE GETTING WORKED UP ABOUT FOREIGN TV SHOWS AGAIN!
NO, ALL I'VE BEEN WATCHING LATELY IS GLEE.
YOU KNOW, GOSSIP GIRL?
SAY, ARE YOU WATCH-ING THAT ONE?

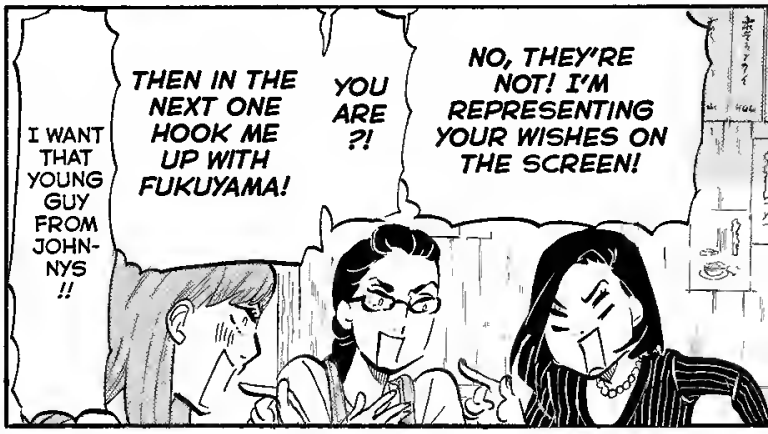

I PUT IN MY FRIENDS DVDS FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME.
AND IN-STEAD OF WATCH-ING TV...
WE'RE STILL STUCK DOING KOMURO FAMILY SONGS!!
THAT'S RIGHT. I MEAN, WHEN WE GO TO KARAOKE ...
WE'RE DONE FOR!

Ohhh, welcome!
HEY, POPS! LONG TIME NO SEE!
SLUMP
GASP
THUNK
AND IF WE START THIS AGAIN, HE'S GOING TO-

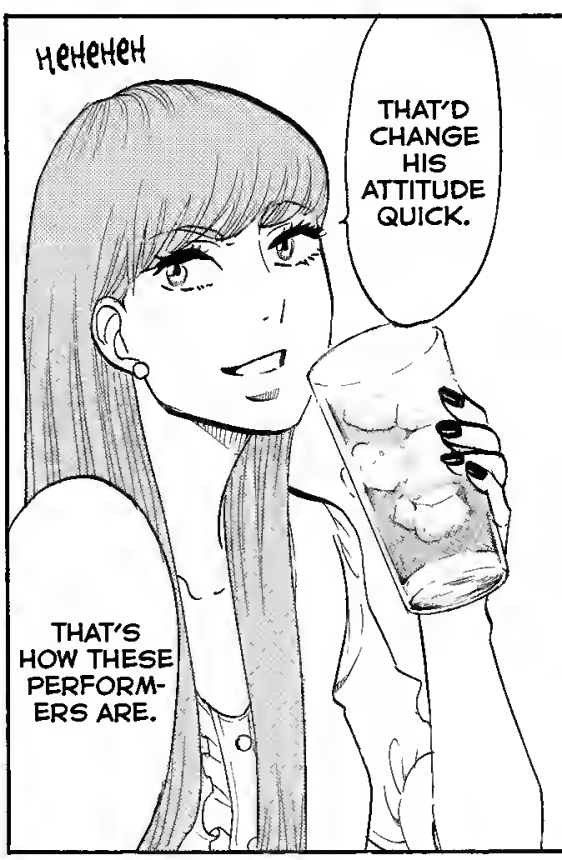
I THOUGHT HE WAS IN SOME SECOND-RATE BAND OR SOMETHING.
I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S BEEN COMING HERE FOR A WHILE.
HEY, WHY'S A FASHION MODEL COMING TO THIS LOWBROW PUB IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AM I TURNING INTO A GROUPIE JUST BECAUSE I FOUND OUT HE'S FAMOUS?!
WAIT, WHAT AM I DISAP-POINTED FOR?!
THOKK
I'D RATHER BAN YOU THREE!!
BAN THAT JERK FROM THE PREMISES !!
POPS !!
SNAP
DAMN IT... THAT WANNA-BE STAR IS RUINING OUR SPOT...
THAT'S A SUPER HUGE PART!
THE LEAD IS A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN WHO'S TORN BETWEEN A RICH, OLDER MAN AND A YOUNG CAFE CLERK. AND HE'S PLAYING THE CLERK ...
AND, HEY, THAT SHOW SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD!
WELL, ACTUAL-LY... IT'S THE 3RD BIG-GEST PART ...
EVEN IF HE DOES, ISN'T IT JUST A BIT PART, ANYWAY?
IS HE REALLY GOING TO APPEAR IN YOUR SHOW?
SO?!

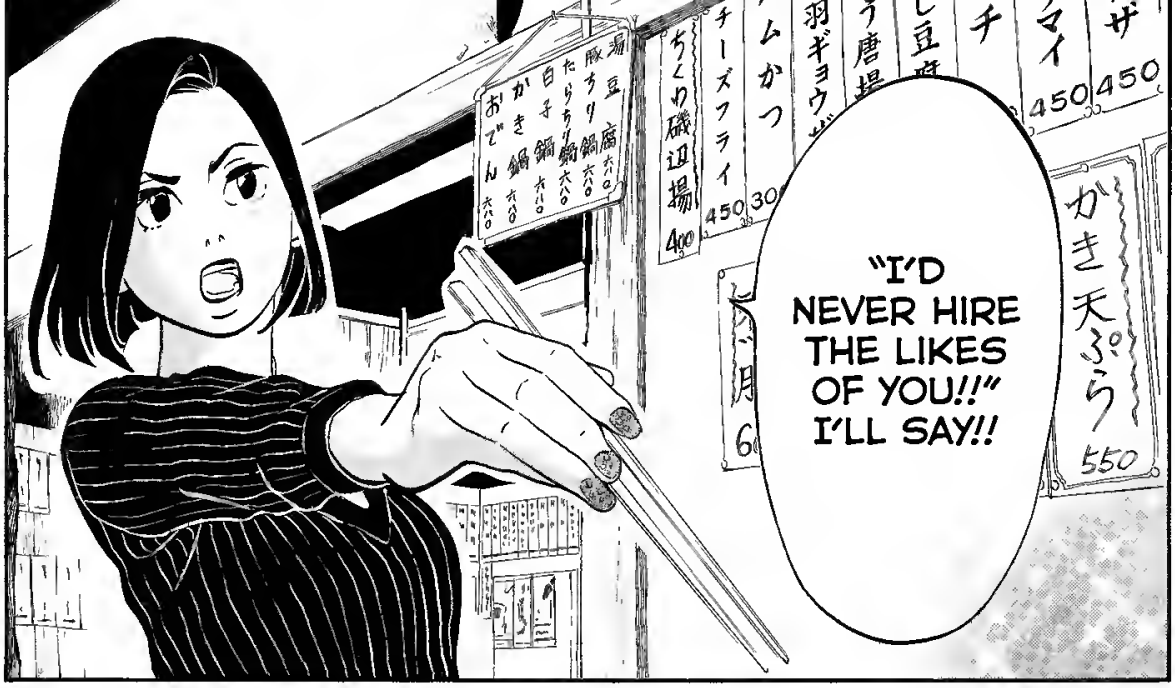

EVERY ONE OF THESE IS BLATANT WISH FULFILLMENT FOR YOU, HUH?
HEY, WAIT!
I SUP-POSE.
THE VIEWERS LIKE THAT KIND OF STORY BEST, AFTER ALL.
THE ONE ABOUT THE THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN WHO GOT CHATTED UP BY A MYSTERIOUS HOMELESS MAN, AND HE TURNED OUT TO BE THE C.E.O. OF AN I.T. COMPANY...
THE ONE BEFORE THIS WAS GREAT TOO.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF STORY, RINKO.

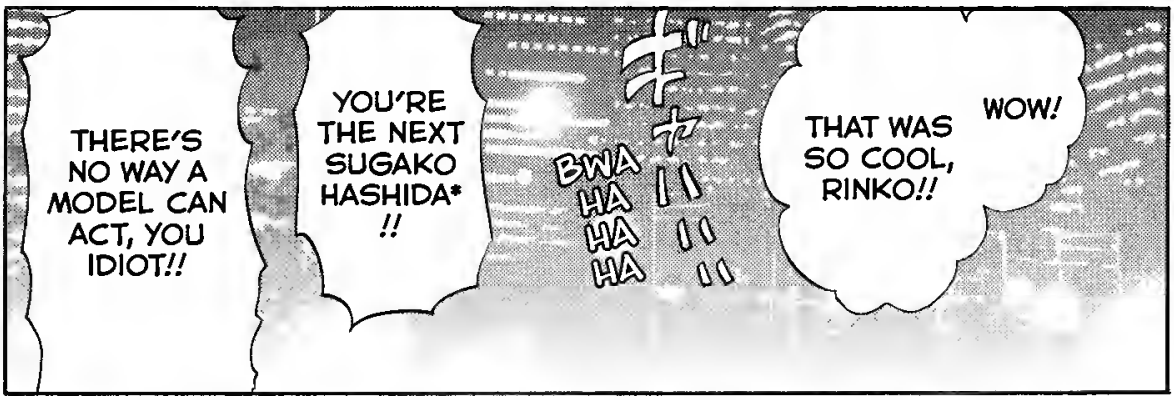

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT NO-NAME MODEL FINDS OUT THE WOMAN HE PICKED A FIGHT WITH IN A BAR IS A SCRIPTWRITER, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A WEB SERIES?
OH, BUT GET THIS...


I WANT THAT YOUNG GUY FROM JOHN-NYS !!
THEN IN THE NEXT ONE HOOK ME UP WITH FUKUYAMA!
YOU ARE ?!
NO, THEY'RE NOT! I'M REPRESENTING YOUR WISHES ON THE SCREEN!

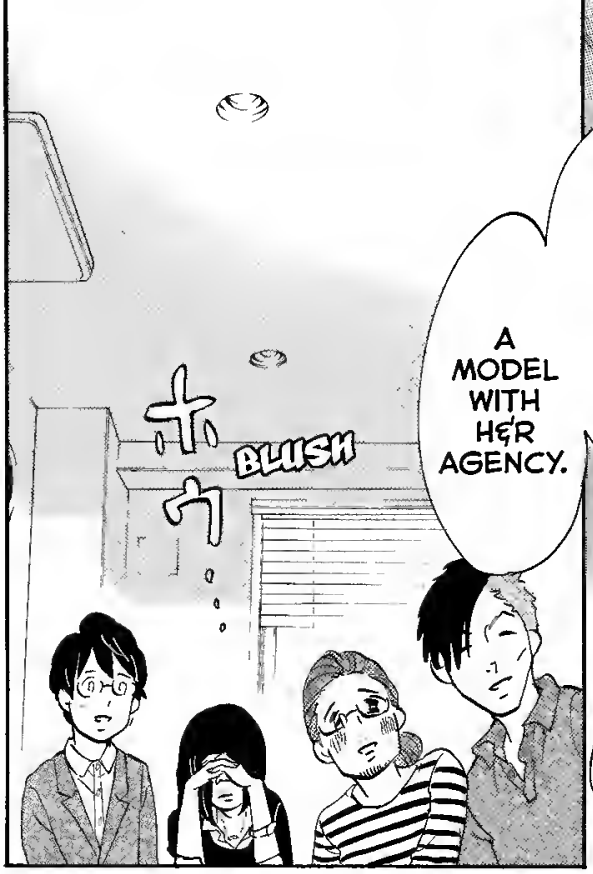
I DO HAVE SOME SAY OVER THE CASTING.
WHEN HE COMES BEGGING, I'M GONNA REALLY TELL HIM OFF.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

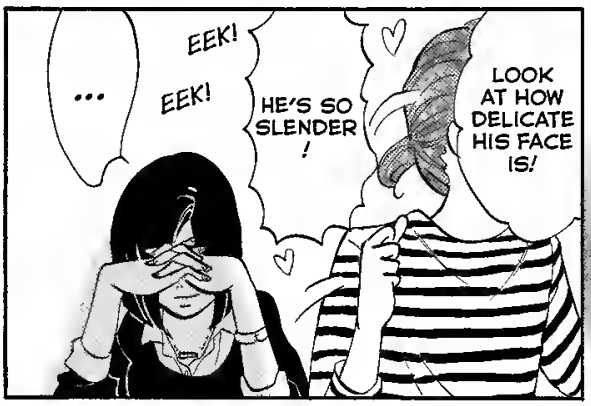

HeHeHeH
THAT'D CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE QUICK.
THAT'S HOW THESE PERFORM-ERS ARE.

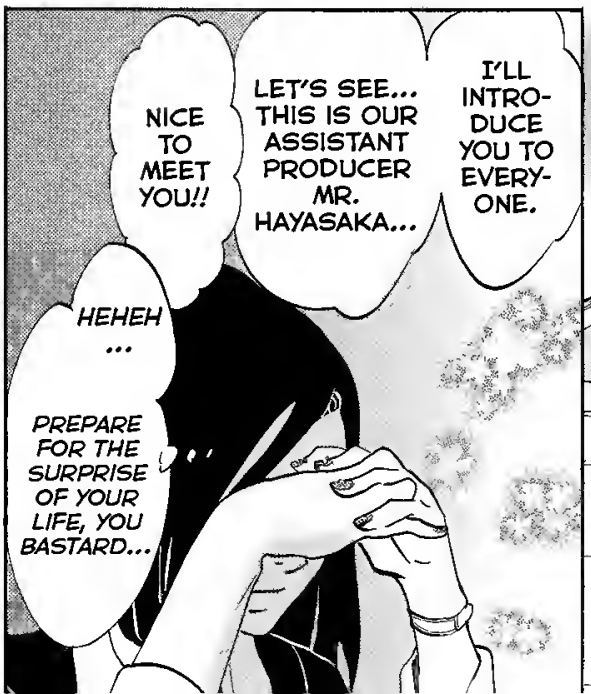




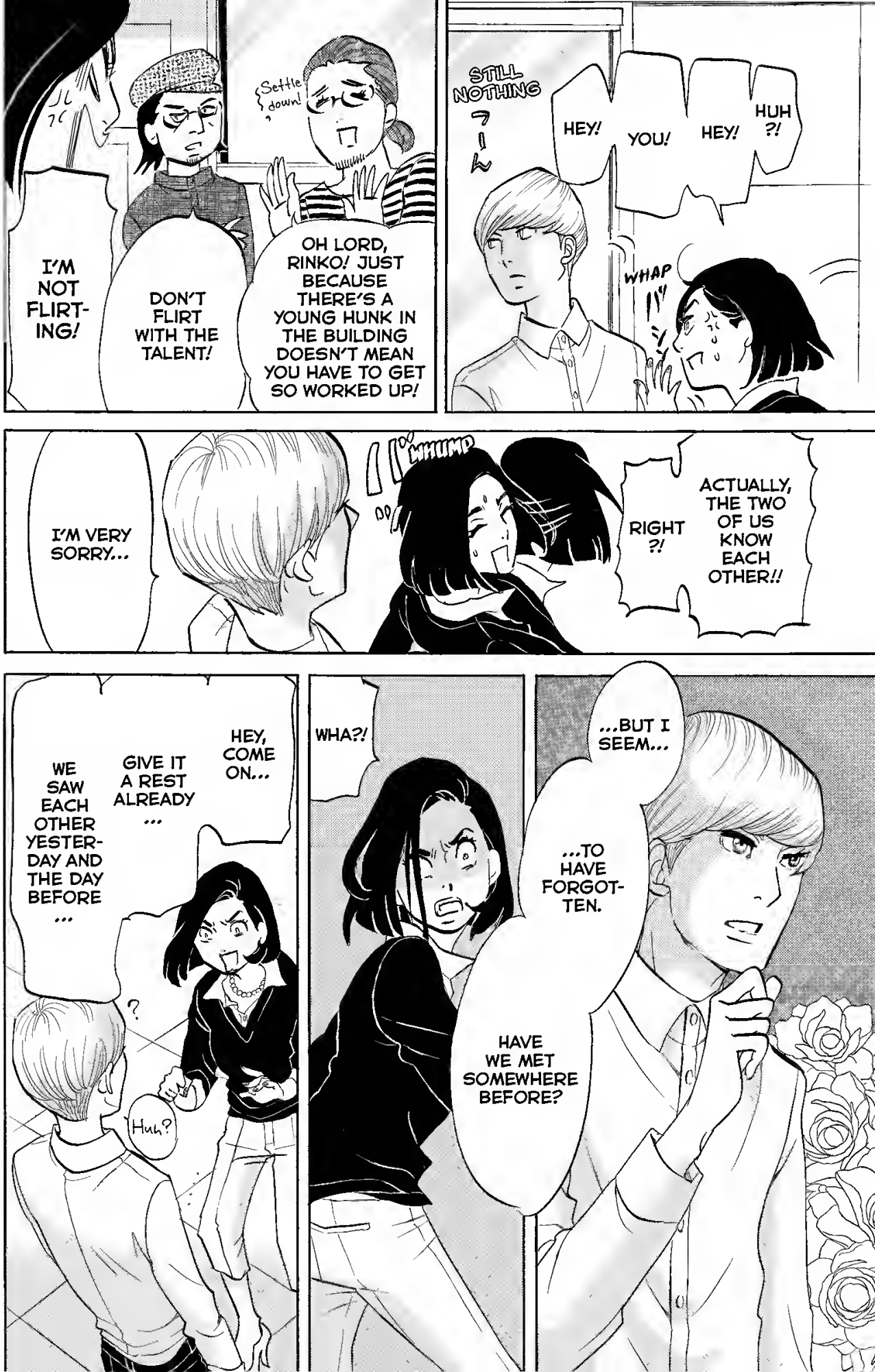
*AN AWARD-WINNING SCRIPTWRITER AND AS OF 2015 THE FIRST SCRIPTWRITER TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS A "PERSON OF CULTURAL MERIT."


BLUSH
A MODEL WITH HER AGENCY.
I'M KEY...
HELLO.


...
EEK!
EEK!
HE'S SO SLENDER!
LOOK AT HOW DELICATE HIS FACE IS!

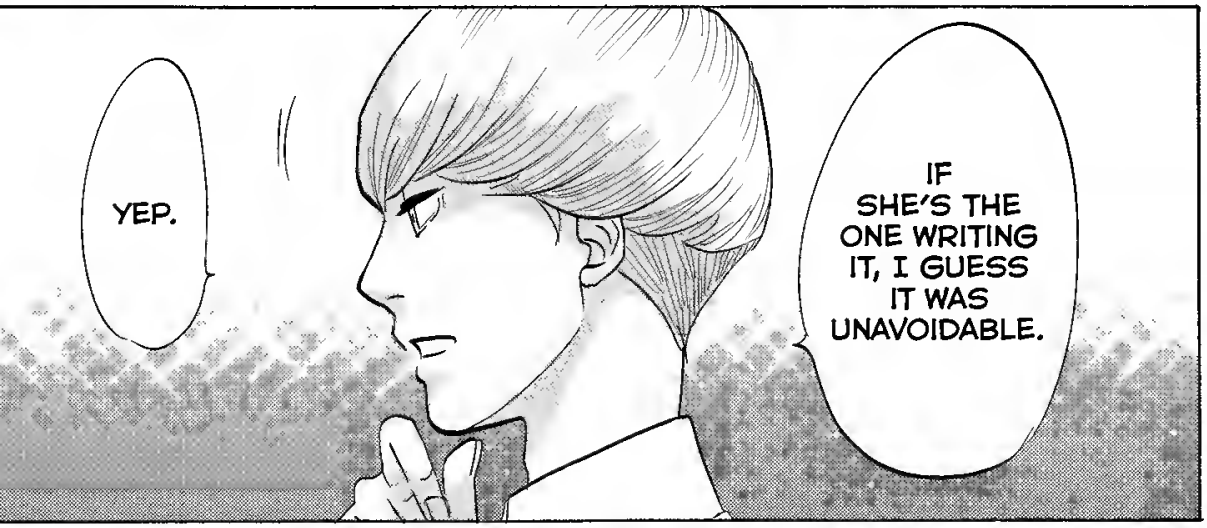

NICE TO MEET YOU!!
LET'S SEE... THIS IS OUR ASSISTANT PRODUCER MR. HAYASAKA...
I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU TO EVERY-ONE.
HEHEH...
PREPARE FOR THE SURPRISE OF YOUR LIFE, YOU BASTARD...

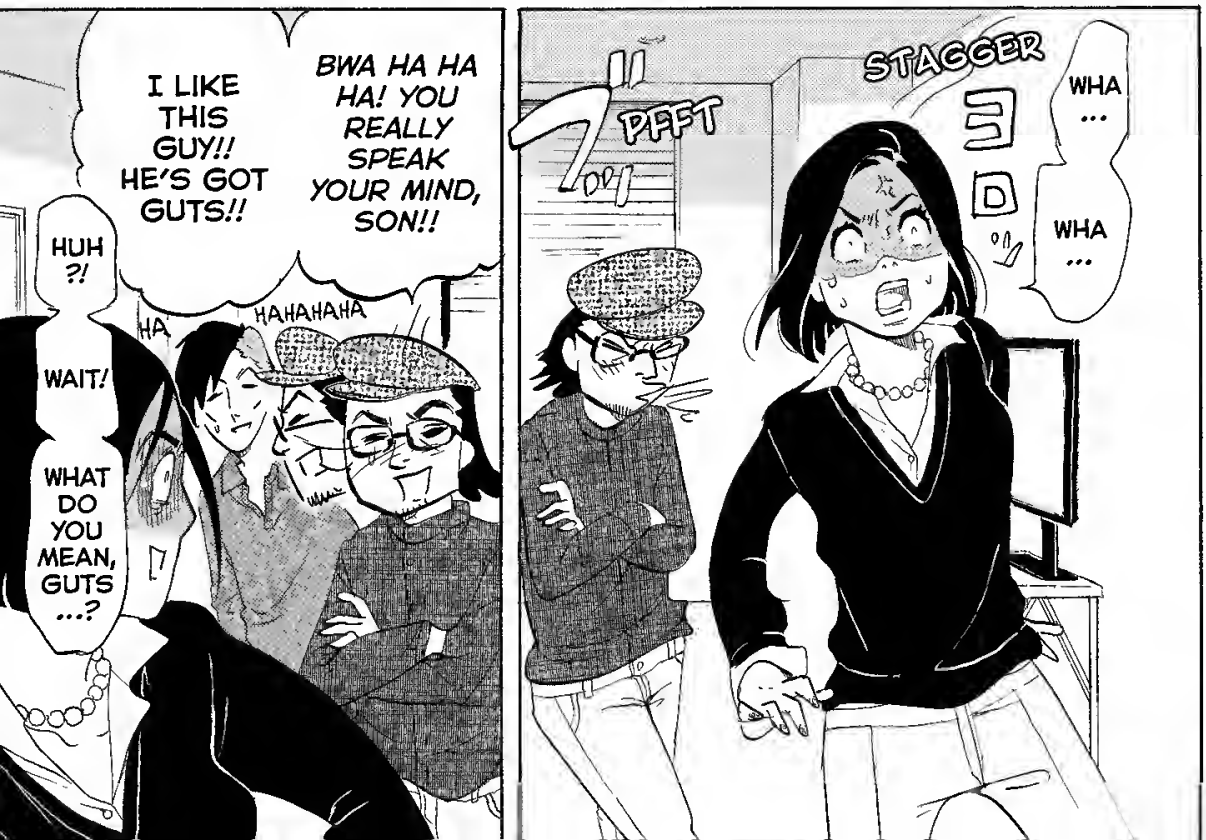
FWIP
AND THIS IS WOMAN WHO WROTE THE SCRIPT...
AND GET READY TO BEG MY FORGIVENESS FOR BEING SUCH AN ASSHOLE!!
FWISH
HEH HEH HEH
HELLO.
RINKO KAMATA.
HELLO.
NICE TO MEET YOU!!
NO
REACTION
HUH?!

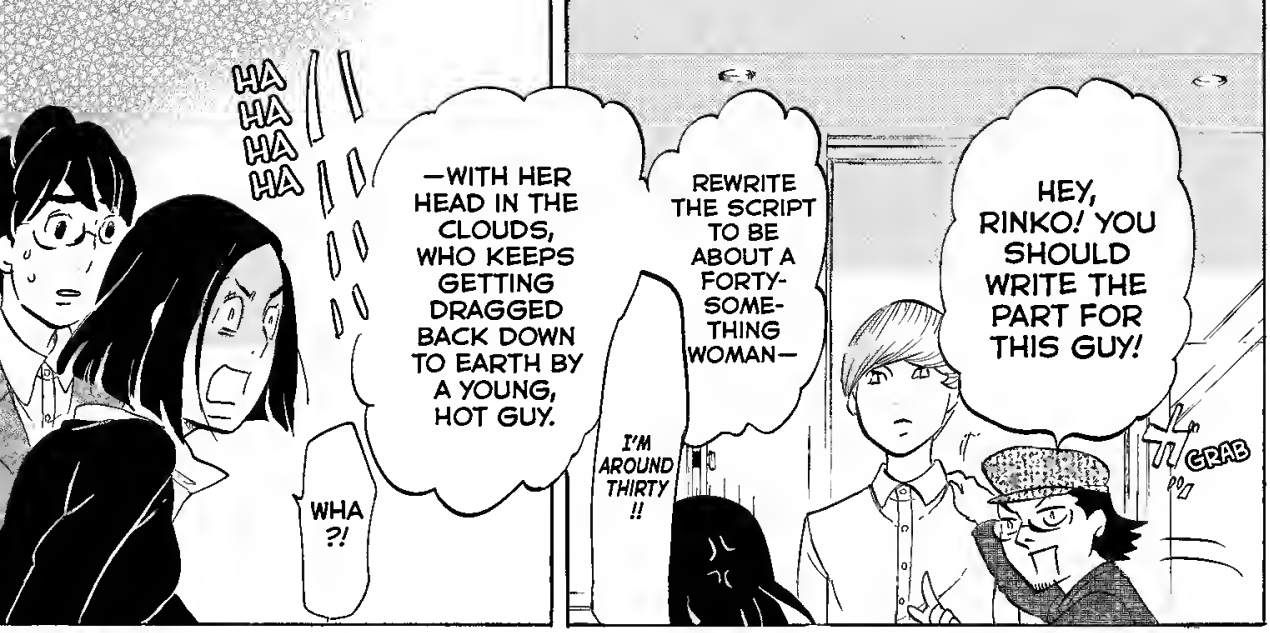

Settle down!
OH LORD, RINKO! JUST BECAUSE THERE'S A YOUNG HUNK IN THE BUILDING DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO GET SO WORKED UP!
DON'T FLIRT WITH THE TALENT!
I'M NOT FLIRTING!
STILL NOTHING
HEY!
YOU!
HEY!
HUH?!
WHAP
I'M VERY SORRY...
MHUMP
RIGHT?!
ACTUALLY, THE TWO OF US KNOW EACH OTHER!!
HEY, COME ON...
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY ...
WE SAW EACH OTHER YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE ...
?
Huh?
WHA?!
...BUT I SEEM...
...TO HAVE FORGOTTEN.
HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

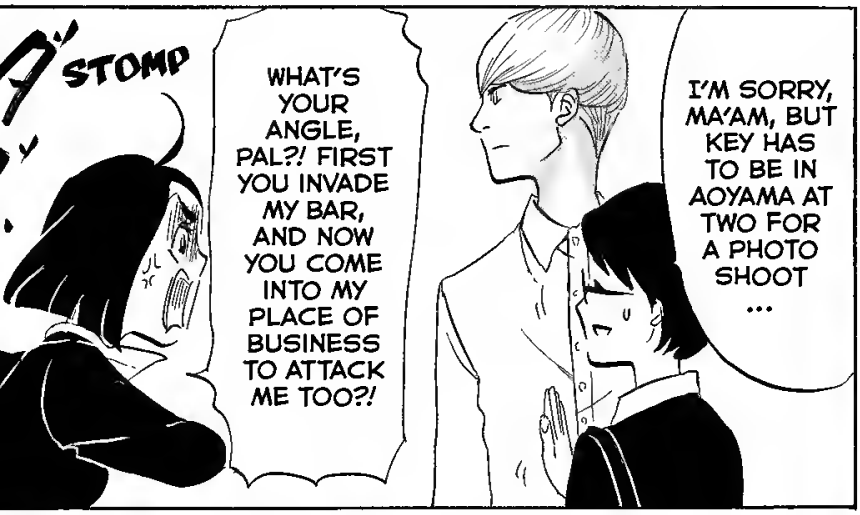
Don't you sigh at me!!
WHAT ARE YOU SIGHING ABOUT?!
WHAT WAS THAT SIGH?!
NOW I UNDERSTAND.
SIGH...
あせ SWEAT
あせ SWEAT
RARGH!
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY?!
NO, REALLY! THIS GUY'S ALWAYS TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH US AT NONBEE!
OH, NONBEE IS THE PUB ME AND MY FRIENDS ALWAYS GO TO...
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE AN ACTOR, ANYWAY.
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHOA...
KEY?!
SO THE LOUDMOUTH FROM THE BAR IS THE VERY SAME PERSON WHO WROTE THAT BORING SCRIPT.
SMILE
I MEAN, WHY WOULD TWO DIFFERENT MEN BE SO SMITTEN WITH THIS MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN?
BUT... WHEN I READ THIS SCRIPT, EVERYTHING WAS JUST SO CONVENIENT...
BBB Web Series
Endless Party (Working Title)
HUH?!

"THIS STORY IS COMPLETELY LACKING IN REALISM."
THAT'S WHAT I KEPT THINKING TO MYSELF.
BUT NOW I GET IT.


IF SHE'S THE ONE WRITING IT, I GUESS IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.
YEP.

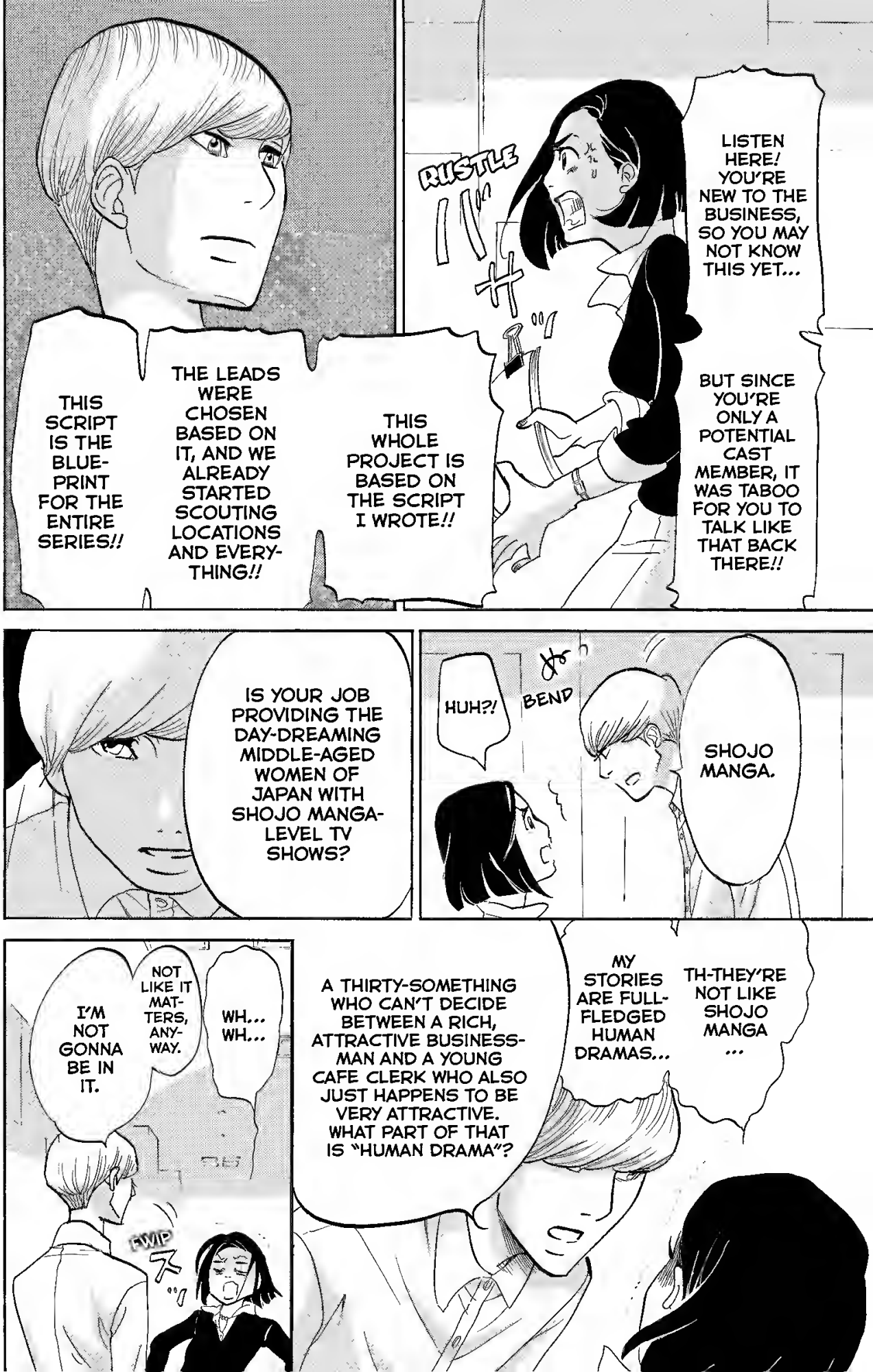

BWA HA HA HA! YOU REALLY SPEAK YOUR MIND, SON!!
I LIKE THIS GUY!! HE'S GOT GUTS!!
HUH?!
HA
HAHAHAHA
WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GUTS...?
PFFT
STAGGER
WHA...
WHA...


HEY, RINKO! YOU SHOULD WRITE THE PART FOR THIS GUY!
GRAB
REWRITE THE SCRIPT TO BE ABOUT A FORTY-SOME-THING WOMAN—
I'M AROUND THIRTY !!
—WITH HER HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, WHO KEEPS GETTING DRAGGED BACK DOWN TO EARTH BY A YOUNG, HOT GUY.
WHA ?!
HA HA HA HA


I'M SORRY, MA'AM, BUT KEY HAS TO BE IN AOYAMA AT TWO FOR A PHOTO SHOOT ...
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE, PAL?! FIRST YOU INVADE MY BAR, AND NOW YOU COME INTO MY PLACE OF BUSINESS TO ATTACK ME TOO?!
STOMP

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HEY!!
STOP RIGHT THERE, YOU!!
STOMP

WHAT IS IT?! WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?!
WHAT DID I DO TO YOU?!
DID I BULLY YOU IN A PAST LIFE?!
SORRY. I GUESS I JUST HAVE A TENDENCY TO SAY WHATEVER POPS INTO MY HEAD.
DON'T YOU SCREW WITH ME!!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

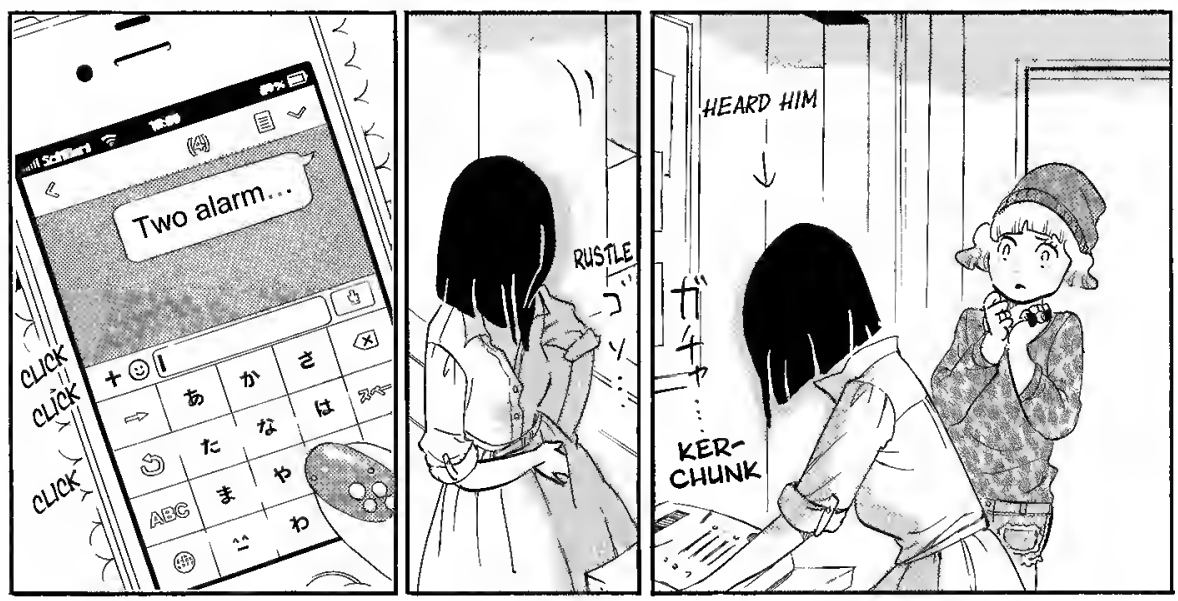

RUSTLE
LISTEN HERE! YOU'RE NEW TO THE BUSINESS, SO YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS YET...
BUT SINCE YOU'RE ONLY A POTENTIAL CAST MEMBER, IT WAS TABOO FOR YOU TO TALK LIKE THAT BACK THERE!!
THIS WHOLE PROJECT IS BASED ON THE SCRIPT I WROTE!!
THE LEADS WERE CHOSEN BASED ON IT, AND WE ALREADY STARTED SCOUTING LOCATIONS AND EVERY-THING!!
THIS SCRIPT IS THE BLUE-PRINT FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES!!
HUH?!
BEND
SHOJO MANGA.
IS YOUR JOB PROVIDING THE DAY-DREAMING MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN OF JAPAN WITH SHOJO MANGA-LEVEL TV SHOWS?
TH-THEY'RE NOT LIKE SHOJO MANGA ...
MY STORIES ARE FULL-FLEDGED HUMAN DRAMAS...
A THIRTY-SOMETHING WHO CAN'T DECIDE BETWEEN A RICH, ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS-MAN AND A YOUNG CAFE CLERK WHO ALSO JUST HAPPENS TO BE VERY ATTRACTIVE. WHAT PART OF THAT IS "HUMAN DRAMA"?
WH... WH...
NOT LIKE IT MAT-TERS, ANY-WAY.
I'M NOT GONNA BE IN IT.
FWIP

I ONLY CAME BECAUSE THE AGENCY TOLD ME TO.
I NEVER WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND EVEN IF I WAS FORCED TO ACT IN SOME-THING...
...IT SURE AS HELL WOULDN'T BE THIS.
W-
WHY NOT?!
BECAUSE IT SUCKS.
CAW

IS IT TRUE KEY WAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PART, BUT THE DEAL WENT UNDER? I HEARD FROM MR. HAYASAKA!
RINKO!
OLYMPIA
オリンピア
CHEER UP! THESE THINGS HAPPEN!
NOTHING IS GOING RIGHT...
IT'S NO USE ...
THUNK
OH, I KNOW!
It sounds like the producer's really mad!!
THEY DID!!
THEY PROBABLY BLAMED IT ON ME, DIDN'T THEY?
...
OH!
MR. HAYASAKA!
HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED THE OFFICE OF RINKO KAMATA!
THE PHONE!
OH!
BRRRRRNG
KER-CHUNK
HEY!
GRR!
NO PRIVATE CALLS ON COM-PANY—
We took a ceramics class!
YOU CAN HAVE THIS MUG I MADE WITH MR. HAYASAKA IN HAKONE !!
HERE!!
I DON'T WANT IT!
POP

...the producer and director just decided that...
I know this is sudden, but...
HUH?
I'm very sorry about this, Rinko...
HELLO? MR. HAYASAKA ?
IT'S FOR ME?
HUH?
I'LL PUT HER ON!
OH! YES!
HUH ?!

TELL HER WE'RE ALREADY IN A MEETING WITH THE NEW WRITER!!
SPIT IT OUT, MAN!!
...AN-OTHER WRITER ON THIS PROJECT.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE... MAYBE... THEY'LL BE GOING WITH...

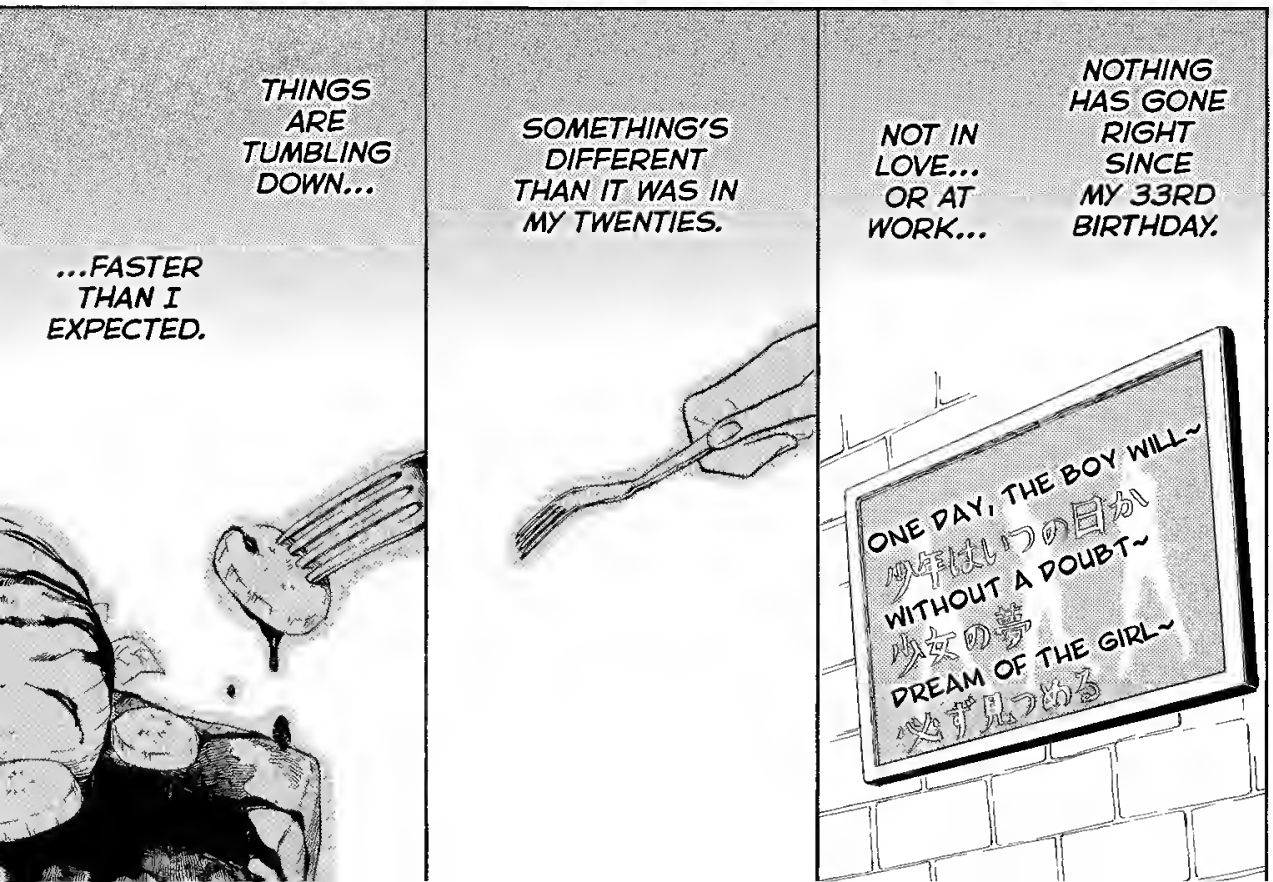

Two alarm...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
RUSTLE
HEARD HIM
KER-CHUNK

CAN YOU CELEBRATE?!
カラオケ ペセラ
KARAOKE PASELA
カラオケ ペセ
CAN YOU KISS ME TONIGHT?!
WE WILL LOVE A LO- NG LONG TIME!
JINGLE
JANGLE
WE'RE ALL ALONE- TONIGHT
I CAN'T WAIT- CAN YOU-?
BUT I'LL BE ALONE WHEN I GO HOME!
BWA HA HA HA HA!
JINGLE
JANGLE

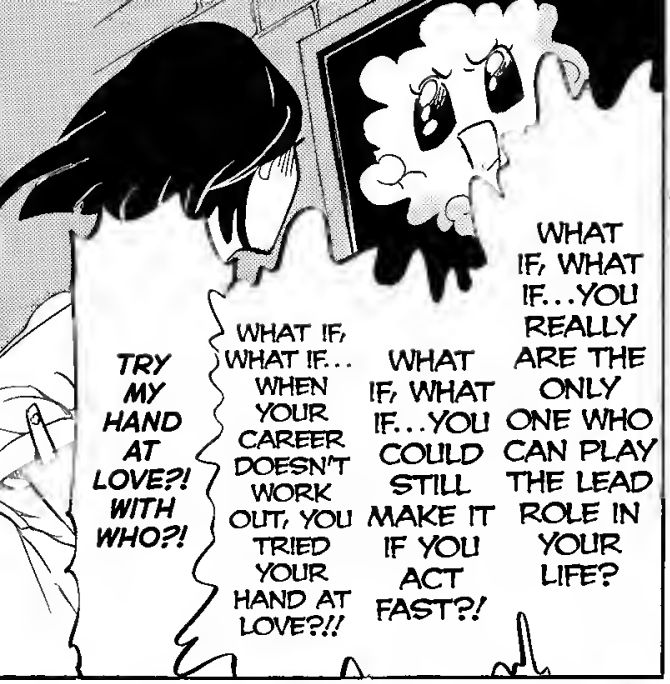
Yay! The honey toast is here!
WHY...?

WHO ORDERED THE HONEY TOAST?
KER-CHUNK
RINKO, SING THAT RAP BY MARK!
I'M DOING GLOBE!
I'M SINGING TRF NEXT.
BEEP BEEP
OH, I'LL SING IT ALL RIGHT!

ボーイ ミーツ ガール
Boy Meets Girl
出会いこそ
FINDING THE RIGHT ONE~
人生の宝探しだね
IS LIFE'S BIG TREASURE HUNT~
I DIDN'T ...
...DO ANYTHING WRONG.

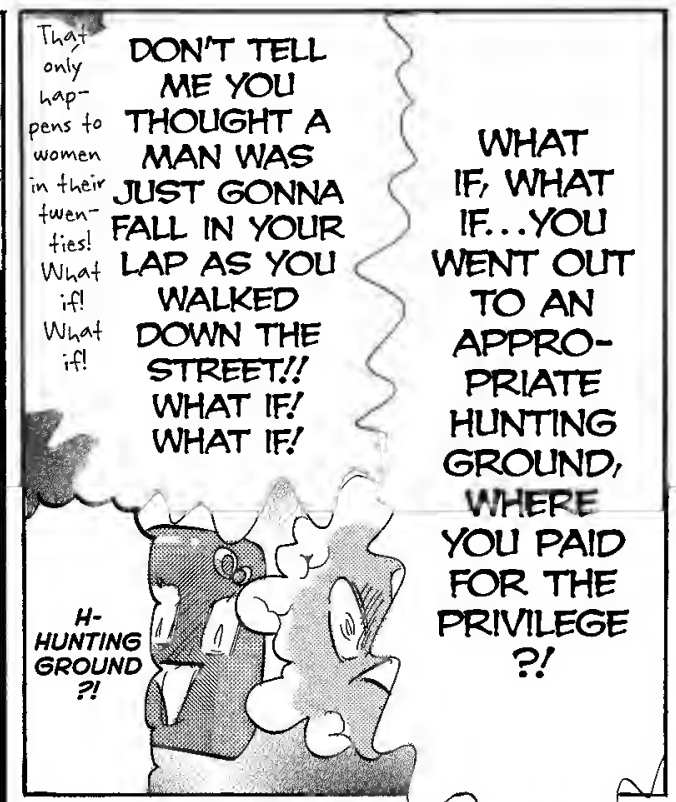

THINGS ARE TUMBLING DOWN...
...FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS IN MY TWENTIES.
NOT IN LOVE... OR AT WORK...
NOTHING HAS GONE RIGHT SINCE MY 33RD BIRTHDAY.
ONE DAY, THE BOY WILL~
少年はいつの日か
WITHOUT A DOUBT~
少女の夢
DREAM OF THE GIRL~
必ず見つめる

ALMOST LIKE THIS HONEY TOAST.
What if, what if...you stopped spending your Friday night wolfing down honey toast with two more thirty-somethings while you sing '90s classics?!
Rinko!
GASP
PINK
WHEN I'M SINGING WITH THE GIRLS, I FORGET ALL THE PAIN...
YEAH... BUT...
FWAP
I know you're depressed, but you can't afford to waste time at these girls' nights out. What if! What if!
You only get one shot at life. What if! What if!


TRY MY HAND AT LOVE?! WITH WHO?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WHEN YOUR CAREER DOESN'T WORK OUT, YOU TRIED YOUR HAND AT LOVE?!!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...YOU COULD STILL MAKE IT IF YOU ACT FAST?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...YOU REALLY ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PLAY THE LEAD ROLE IN YOUR LIFE?

SKREEEEEEK
EEEEK!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL SINGLE!!

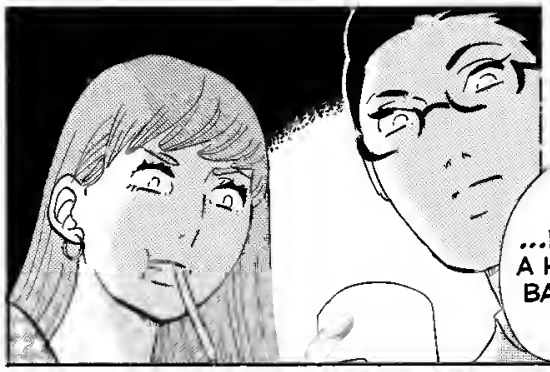
FOOD
SUPER-SIZE
SUPER-SIZE FRIES 530
ASPARAGUS AND TARTAR SAUCE
Courtship Arranged Marriage Party Opening Soon
MAY 4TH
TIME • 1:30 - 4:00 PM
RECEPTION AT (PM)
PLACE • PASELA KARAOKE PARTY HALL
COST • (MEN) ¥2000 (WOMEN) ¥1500
ATTENDEES • (MEN) SINGLES AGE 33 - 45
(WOMEN) SINGLES AGE 25 - 39
EVENTS • INTRODUCTIONS AFTER THAT
ARRANGED MARRIAGE MEETINGS
WITH EVERYONE THEN, FREE TIME.
FOR EVERYONE FINALLY,
COUPLES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SPONSORED BY
PUBLIC COMPANY SA
UFO ¥50
KIM CHEESE
DICED STRAW
STRAWBERRY DOLCE PIZZA ¥600


That only happens to women in their twenties! What if! What if!
DON'T TELL ME YOU THOUGHT A MAN WAS JUST GONNA FALL IN YOUR LAP AS YOU WALKED DOWN THE STREET!! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
H-HUNTING GROUND ?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...YOU WENT OUT TO AN APPROPRIATE HUNTING GROUND, WHERE YOU PAID FOR THE PRIVILEGE ?!

GASP

I MAY NOT WORK IN THIS TOWN AGAIN...
KAORI... KOYUKI...

...A SIGN FROM ON HIGH...
A flyer?
WHAT IS THIS?
HMM?
GRAB
カッ

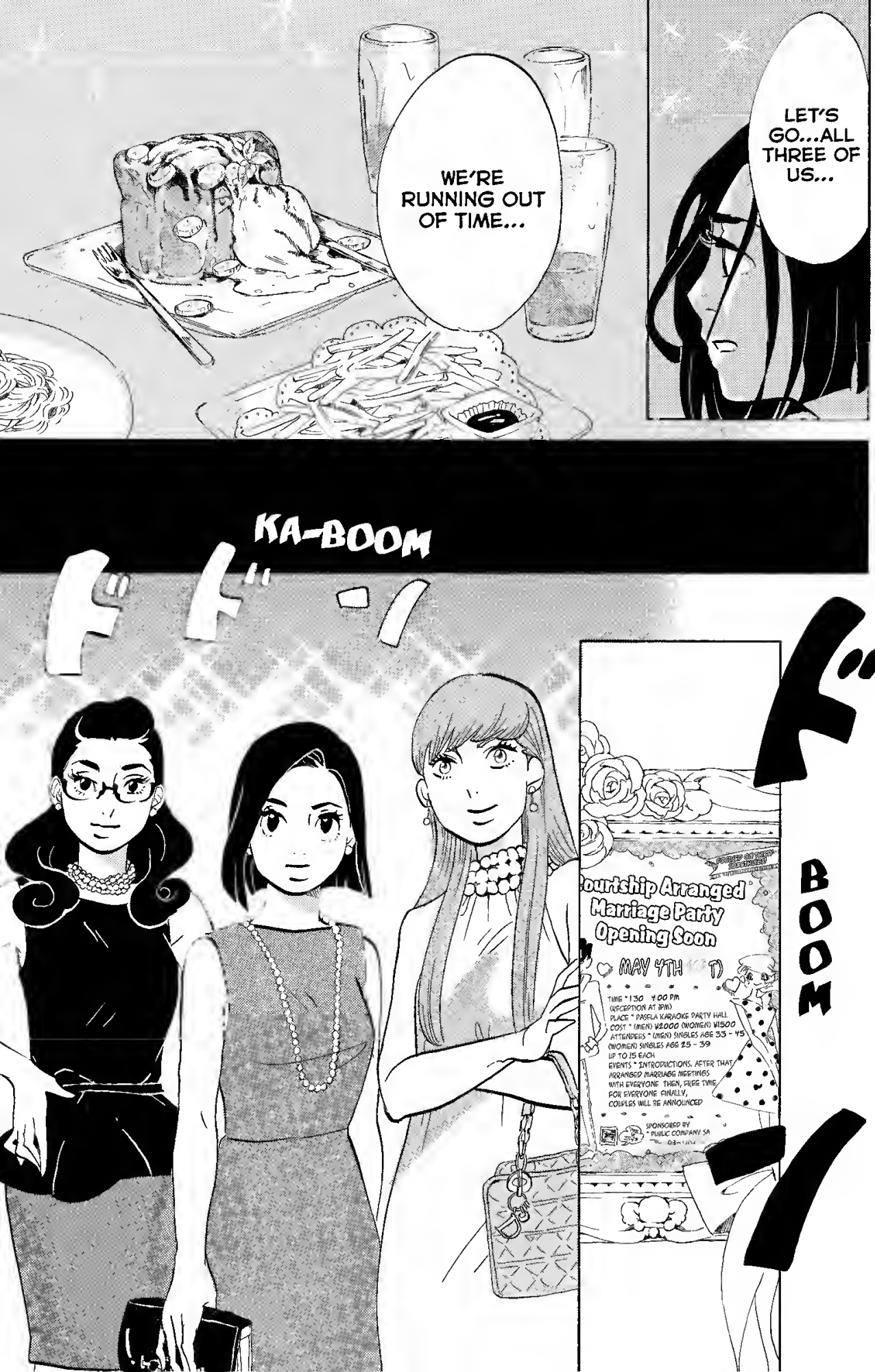

...FIND A HUSBAND.

SO I'M GONNA...

ALL RIGHT.
A RICH GUY ...
JUST IN CASE, I WANT TO GET MARRIED TO...
I'LL JOIN YOU, THEN.
SHAKE
ガクガク
SHAKE
DAD'S DIABETES HAS BEEN ACTING UP LATELY, SO HE'S GETTING PRETTY WEAK.

MY NAIL SALON ISN'T FEELING ANY EFFECT FROM ABENOMICS... WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY NEW CUSTOMERS...
HUH?!
AND THE RENT ON OMOTESANDO IS ROUGH ...

YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU'VE GOT TALENT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RINKO?!
...
ME TOO...


WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...
LET'S GO...ALL THREE OF US...
KA-BOOM
F"
F"
F"
BOOM
Courtship Arranged Marriage Party Opening Soon
MAY 4TH
TIME * 1:30 4:00 PM (RECEPTION AT 1PM)
PLACE * PASELA KARAOKE PARTY HALL
COST * (MEN) ¥2000 (WOMEN) ¥1500
ATTENDERS * (MEN) SINGLES AGE 33 - 45 (WOMEN) SINGLES AGE 25 - 39 UP TO 15 EACH
EVENTS * INTROPUCTIONS, AFTER THAT ARRANGED MARRIAGE MEETINGS WITH EVERYONE THEN, FREE TIME FOR EVERYONE FINALLY, COUPLES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SPONSORED BY * PUBLIC COMPANY SA

BOOOOOOOM
KER-CHACK

KA-BOOOOOM
RATTATATTATATTATATTA
BRAT BRAT
BRAT
BRAT
HMM?
THAT'S WHAT THE LACK OF GOOD GUYS MAKES YOU WANNA DO, RIGHT?
HUH? THAT'S WEIRD...
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A BIG PARTY FOR MARRIAGE SEEKERS ...
That age range ...
THEN ALL THE WOMEN MUST BE OLD AS H-

GLITTER キラキラ GLITTER キラキラ GLITTER ー！
ちゅどーん
KA-THOOOM
THEY'RE ALL YOUNG AND PRETTY CUTE!!
キャッ EEK!
EEK! キャッ

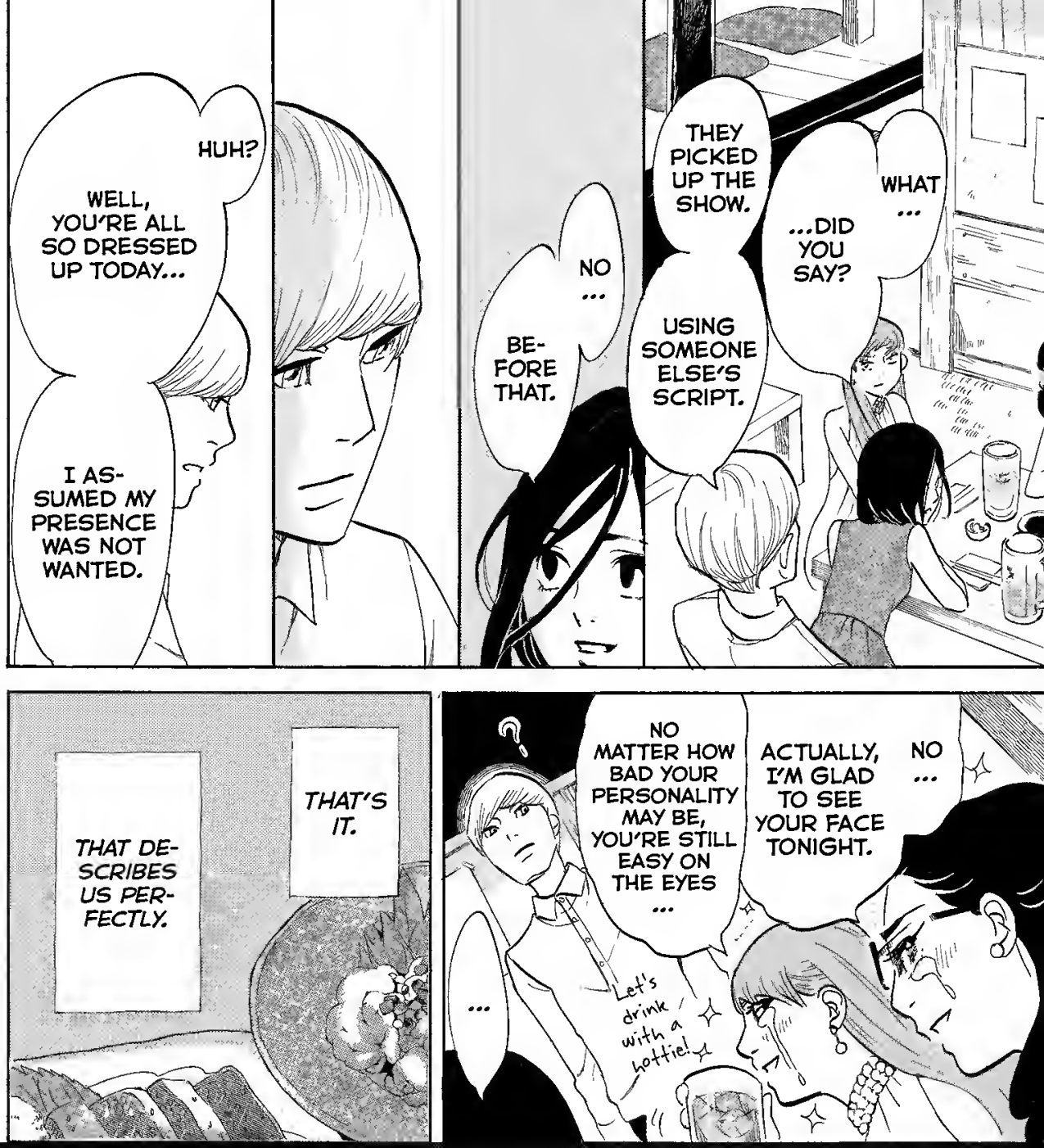
BAM BAM BAM BAM
BRAT BRAT BRAT
BRAT BRAT
WE MUST RETURN TO HQ AND COME UP WITH A NEW STRATEGY !!
BOOM
WHAT-IF ARMY FIRST INFAN-TRY BAT-TALION!! FALL BACK !!
BOOM
PUB
酒処 呑んべえ
NONBEE
HQ
大本営
MIL-T
-LIVER

MAY-BE...
I SHOULD HAVE MARRIED THAT MUSICIAN IN COLLEGE ...
HE MAY HAVE BEEN BROKE, BUT HE WAS A LOT MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN ANYONE AT THAT PARTY TONIGHT...
LISTEN, WE'RE IN NO POSITION TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MEN'S LOOKS.
THE FACT THAT EVEN THOSE MEN HAVE YOUNG, CUTE GIRLS ANGLING FOR THEM IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.
BECAUSE ALL THE GUYS THEIR AGE ARE EITHER UNDER- OR UNEM-PLOYED...
WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE ...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

WHICH MEANS... EVEN IF BY SOME MIRACLE YOU FOUND A GOOD MAN AMONG THEM...
...AND BY SOME OTHER MIRACLE YOU ACTUALLY LIKED HIM...
THOSE GIRLS WOULD BE YOUR RIVALS...
... RIGHT?
SLUMP

YOU KNOW ...
...IT'S START-ING...
...TO LOOK LIKE...
...WE MAY BE TOTALLY–
UNWANTED.

RIGHT?
THE SHOW'S BEEN PICKED UP.



NO MATTER HOW BAD YOUR PERSONALITY MAY BE, YOU'RE STILL EASY ON THE EYES ...
ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOUR FACE TONIGHT.
NO ...
...
Let's drink with a hottie!

I THOUGHT THAT NO MATTER HOW OLD I GOT, I'D ALWAYS BE THE STAR.

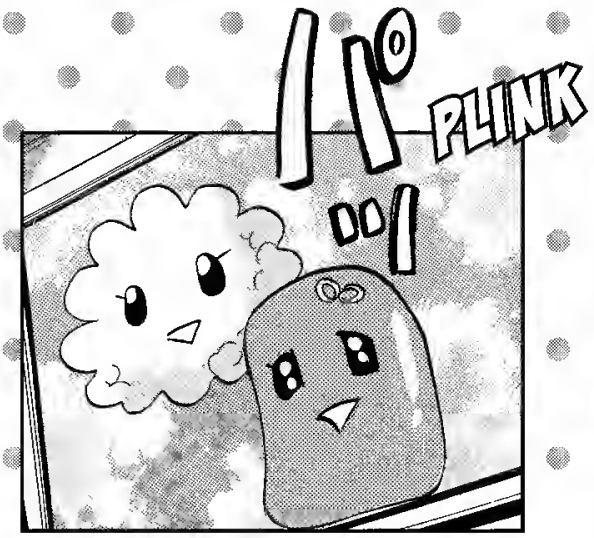
I ASSUMED THAT IN THE SCREENPLAY OF MY LIFE, I WOULD ALWAYS BE THE HEROINE.

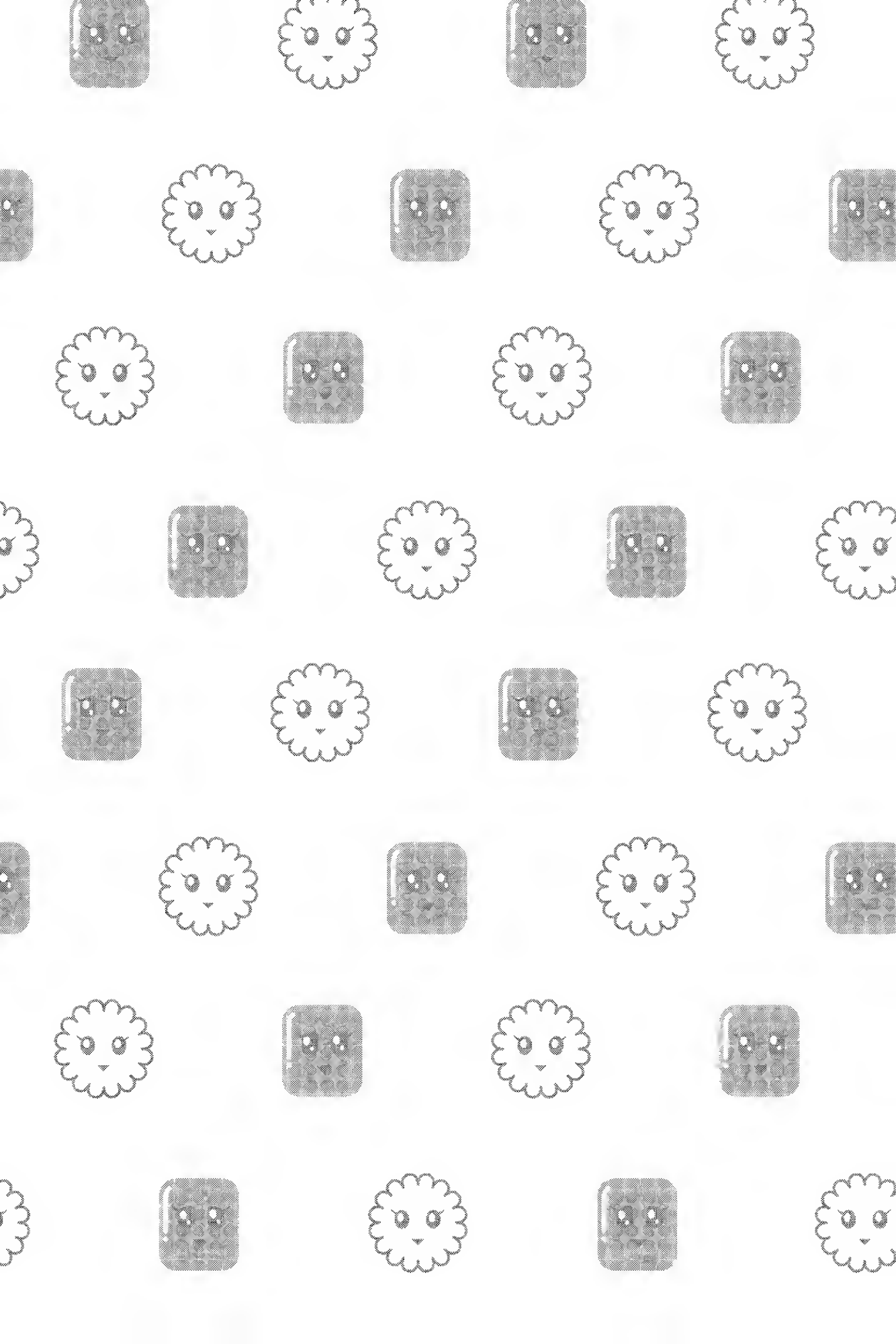
THAT IF I PUT MY HEART INTO IT, I COULD SUCCEED IN BOTH MY CAREER AND LOVE.

BUT I'M UNWANTED.
OR AT WORK.
I'M NOT WANTED IN LOVE.
OR THAT COURTSHIP PARTY.

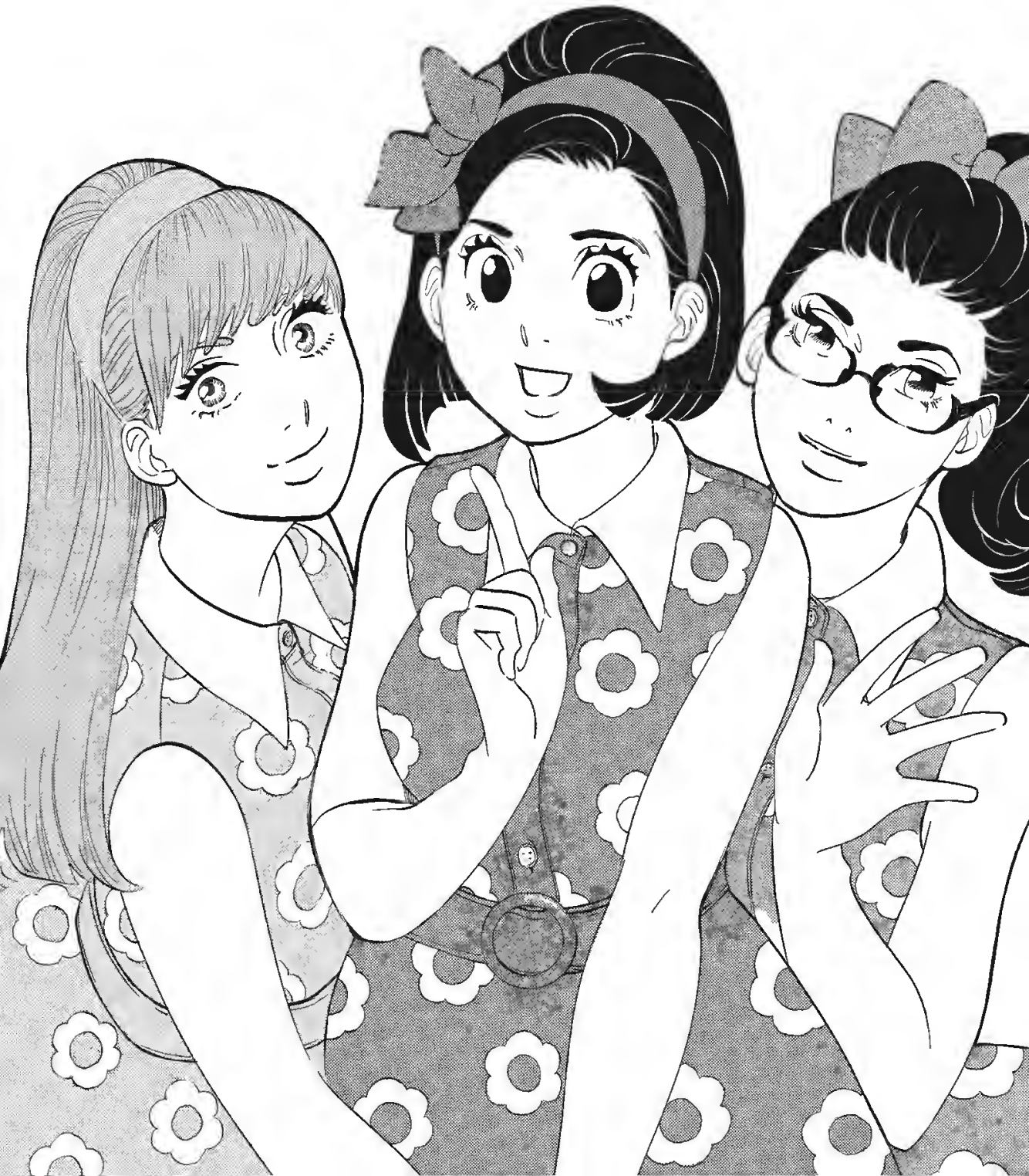
"EXCUSE ME, THEN."
"OH, I SEE."
"I'M NOT WANTED HERE?"

I CAN'T LET THINGS GO LIKE THAT, YOU BASTARDS!!

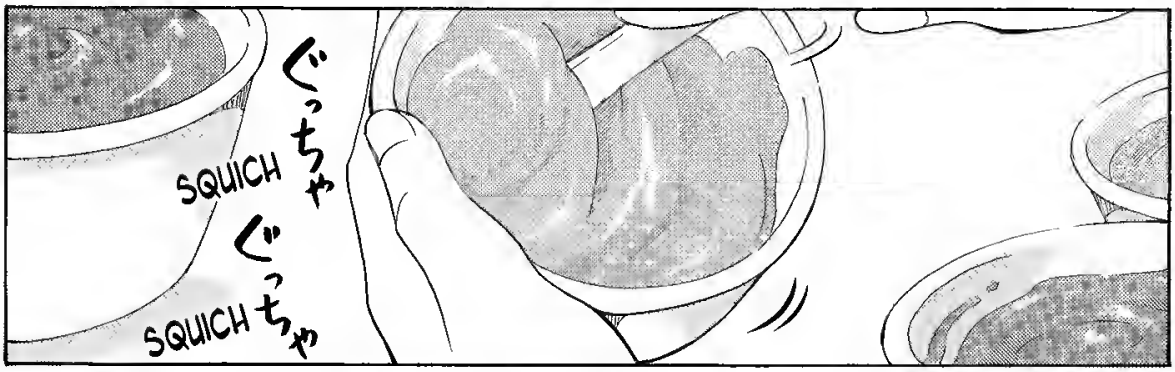

PLINK

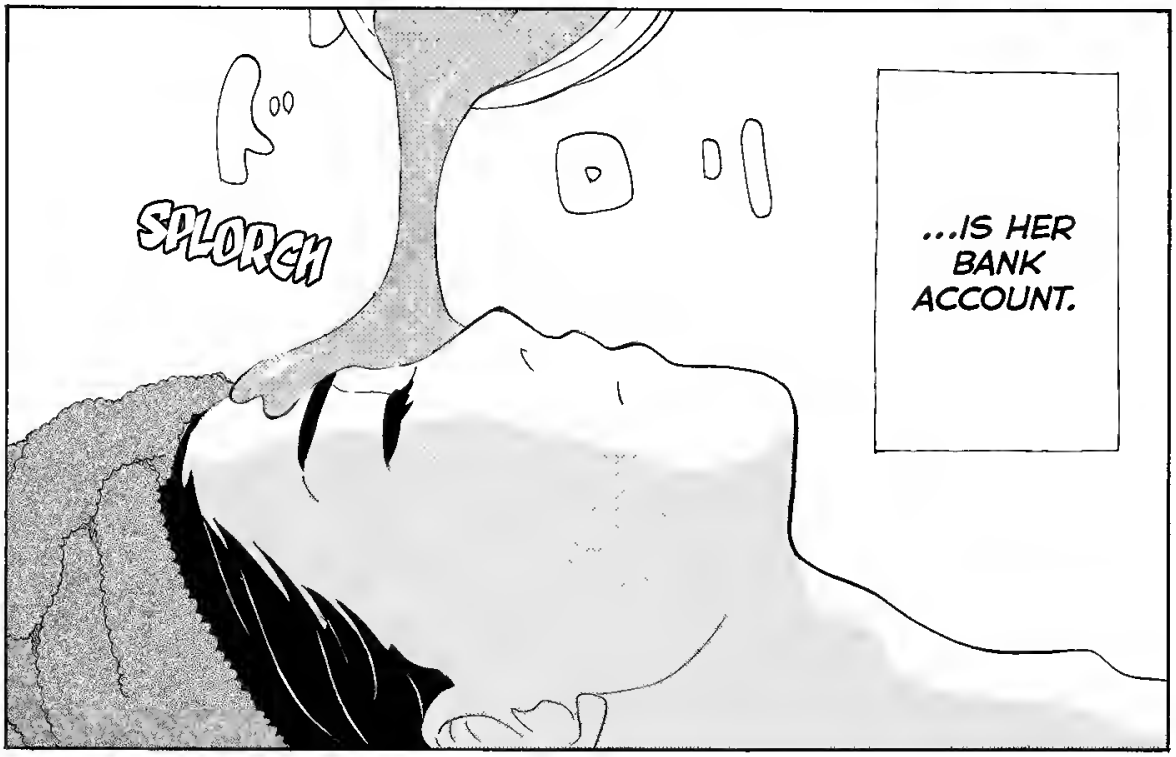


ACT 4 THE WOMAN WITH SAVINGS AND THE YOUNGER MAN

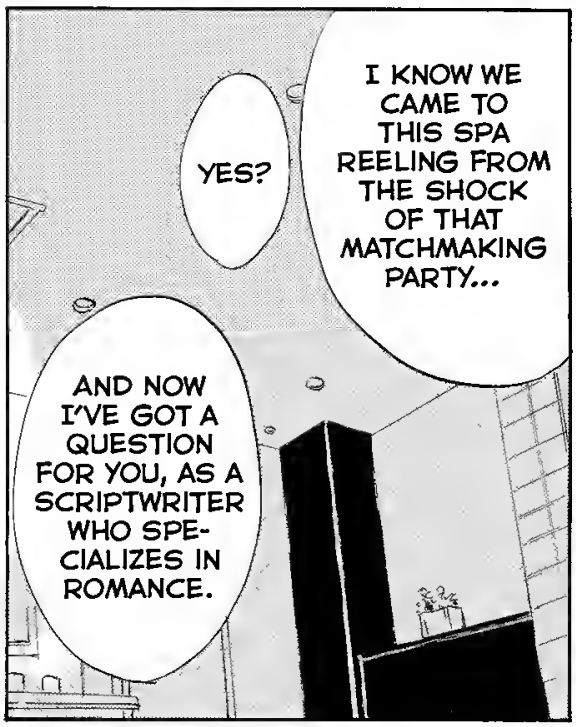


Esthetic Salon
Venus
GINZA
WHEN A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN HAS NO LUCK IN LOVE OR WORK, HER BEST WEAPON...

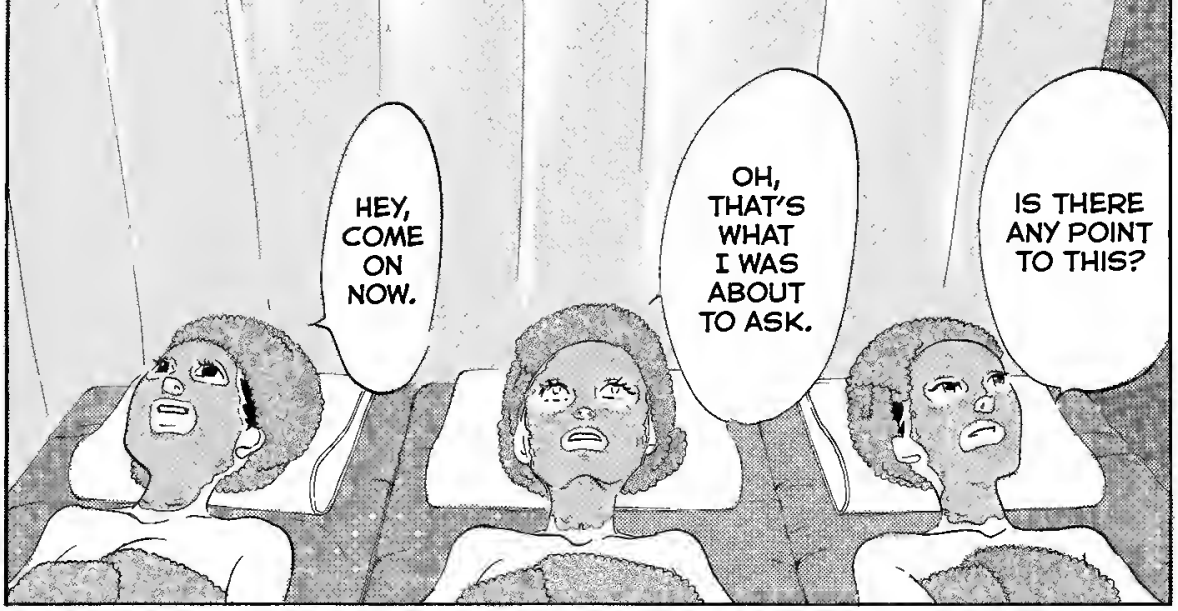

ぐっちゃ
SQUICH
ぐっちゃ
SQUICH

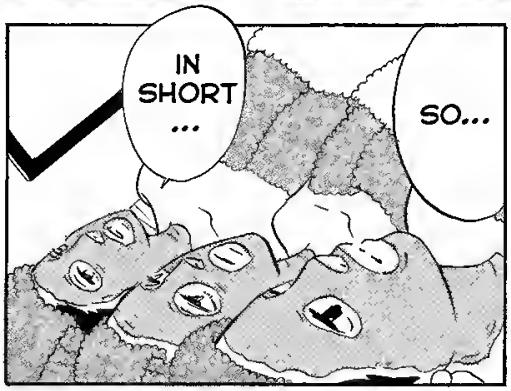

SPLORCH
...IS HER BANK ACCOUNT.

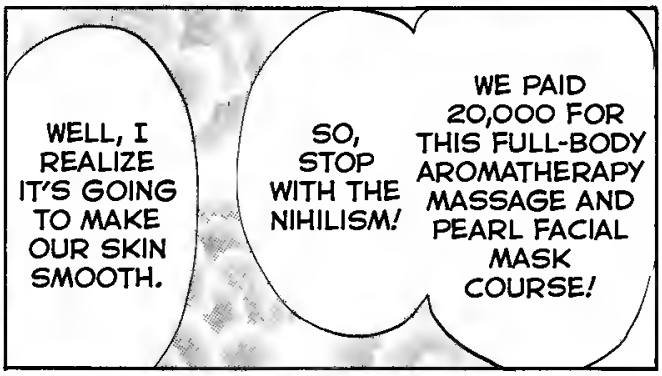
PLEASE WAIT WHILE THE MASK'S ACTIVE INGREDIENTS HAVE TIME TO ABSORB.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL LET THAT SIT FOR TEN MINUTES.


I KNOW WE CAME TO THIS SPA REELING FROM THE SHOCK OF THAT MATCHMAKING PARTY...
YES?
AND NOW I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU, AS A SCRIPTWRITER WHO SPECIALIZES IN ROMANCE.

...
RINKO ...
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TALK LIKE THIS.


HEY, COME ON NOW.
OH, THAT'S WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO ASK.
IS THERE ANY POINT TO THIS?

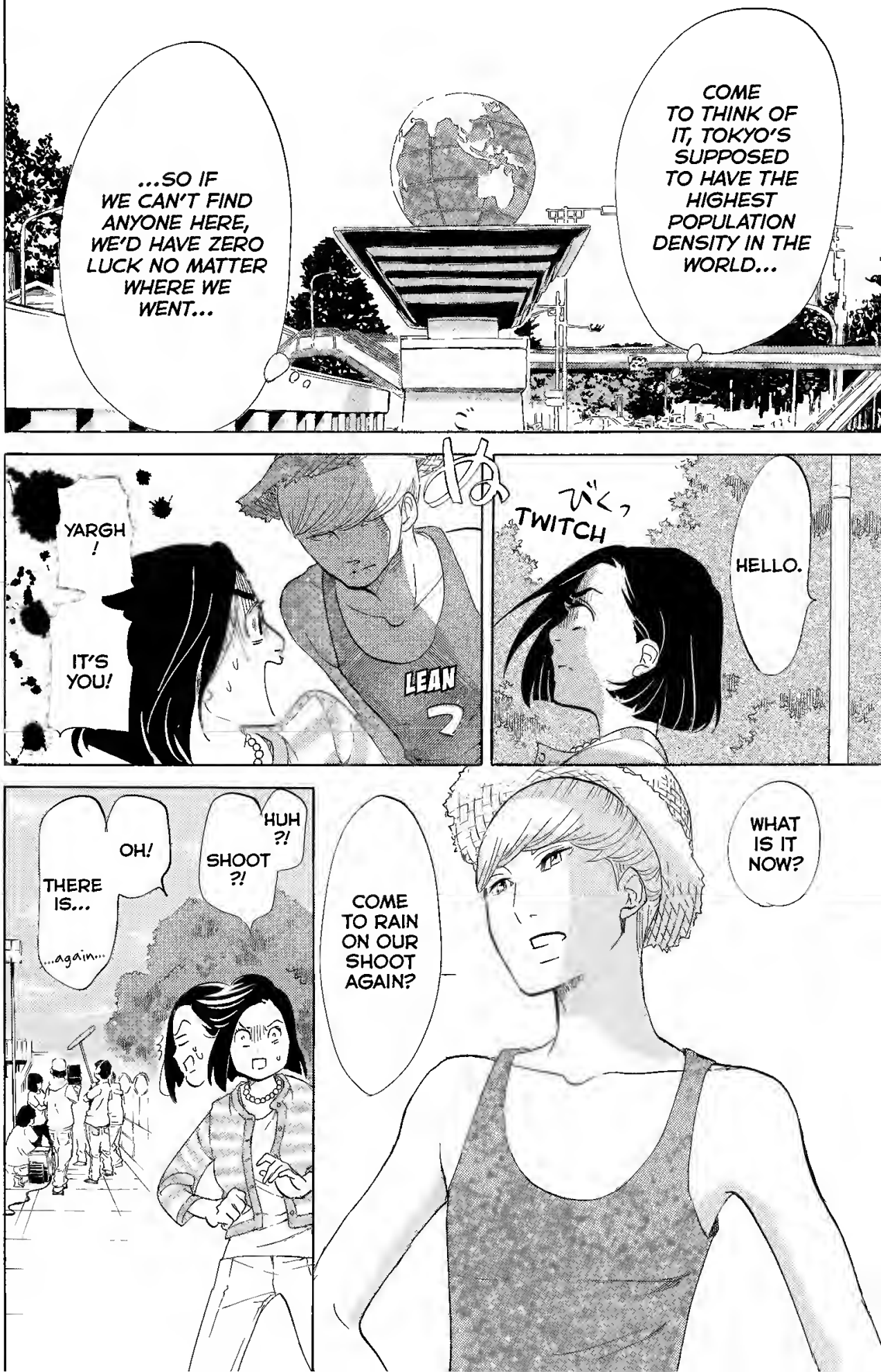

IN SHORT ...
SO...


WELL, I REALIZE IT'S GOING TO MAKE OUR SKIN SMOOTH.
SO, STOP WITH THE NIHILISM!
WE PAID 20,000 FOR THIS FULL-BODY AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE AND PEARL FACIAL MASK COURSE!

IF WE DO THIS, WILL IT HELP US GET MARRIED?
...IS THE QUES-TION.
YEAH, THAT.

つるんSHINE
OF COURSE NOT.
OH, THAT GUY'S NOT AS HOT, BUT HE LOOKS LOADED.
OH. HE'S HOTTER.
OH. HE'S HOT.
...BUT WE STILL CAN'T FIND ANYONE FOR US.
THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD MEN STROLLING AROUND TOWN...
I GUESS THERE ARE DECENT MEN ON OMOTESANDO AFTER ALL.

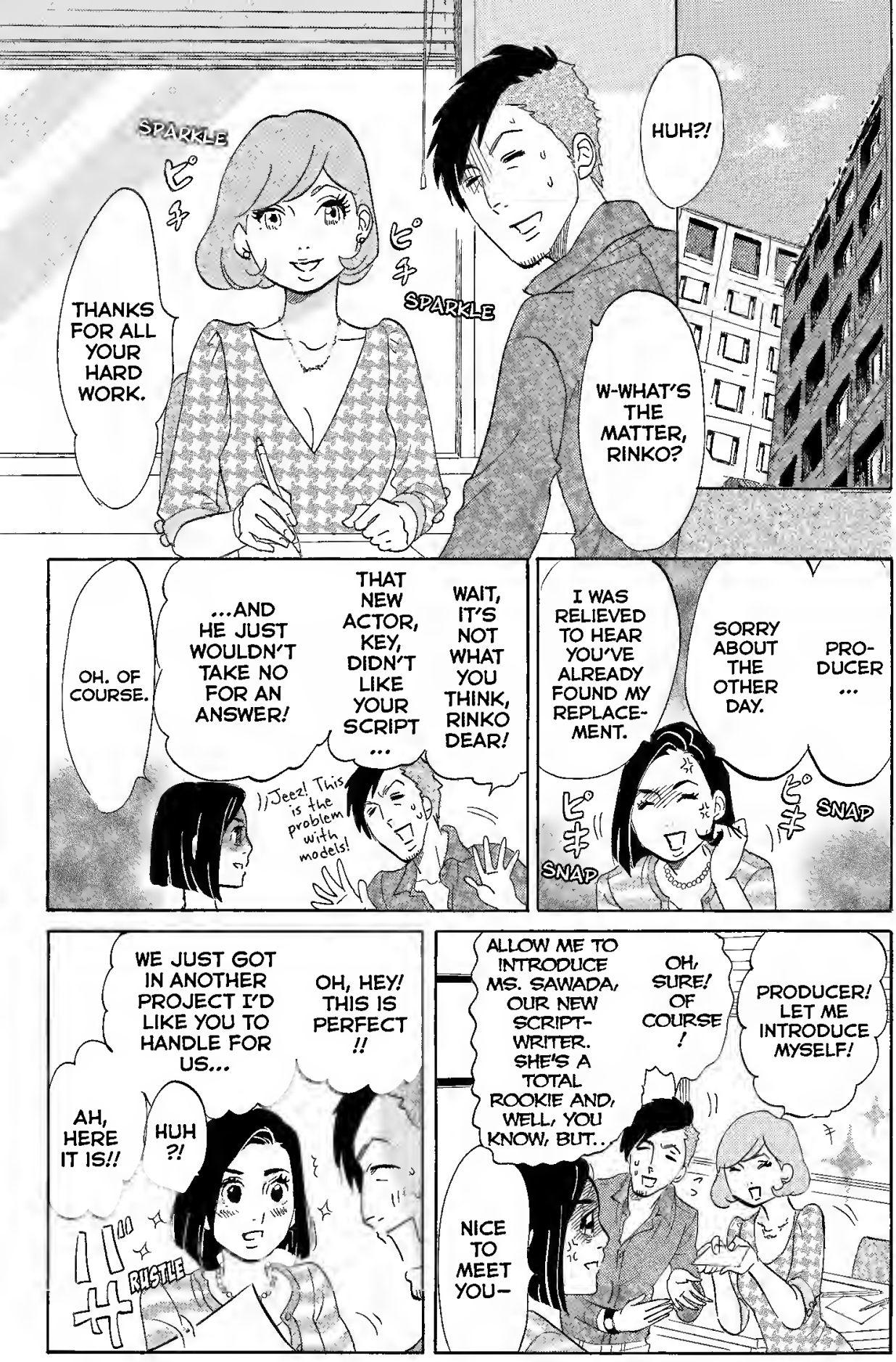
*FIVE RINGS BRIDGE


COME TO THINK OF IT, TOKYO'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE HIGHEST POPULATION DENSITY IN THE WORLD...
...SO IF WE CAN'T FIND ANYONE HERE, WE'D HAVE ZERO LUCK NO MATTER WHERE WE WENT...
HELLO.
びくっ TWITCH
YARGH!
IT'S YOU!
LEAN
WHAT IS IT NOW?
COME TO RAIN ON OUR SHOOT AGAIN?
HUH?!
SHOOT?!
OH!
THERE IS...
...again...

WAIT... WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
WE'RE FILMING A SUMMER SCENE TODAY.
THE VIDEO'S GOING TO SHOW-CASE ALL FOUR SEASONS.
COME ON, THAT'S WHAT ALL BUMKEY'S VIDEOS DO.
OH, BUT I GUESS YOU'RE TOO OLD TO KNOW THAT, MA'AM...
ACHOO !
SIGH ... U
You must be cold in that getup...
HERE. BLOW YOUR NOSE!
RUSTLE ゴソ...
...
SNIFFLE ズズ"
YOU SURE ARE MIDDLE-AGED.
YOU'RE QUICK ON THE DRAW WITH THOSE TISSUES...
DO YOU HAVE SOME CANDY IN THERE FOR ME TOO?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY CANDY FROM ME!!
KEY! WE'RE START-ING THE NEXT SCENE!
SEE YA.
TURN
YEAH, YEAH. BREAK A LEG.
BLOW
OH.
RIGHT.
I MET WITH THE NEW WRITER FOR THAT WEB SERIES THIS MORNING.
!!

SHE WAS REEEAAALLY YOUNG.
SHE'S DEFINITELY SLEEPING WITH THE PRODUCER.
SO?
BUT YOU'RE A BIG SELLER, SO THE PRODUCER WAS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT HOW HE WANTS TO HIRE YOU FOR A BIGGER, UPCOMING PROJECT...
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, RINKO.
OH!
I KNOW HER!!
I WAS IN A NEW SCREEN-WRITERS COMPE-TITION WITH HER ONCE!!
HOW OLD IS SHE?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
SHE JUST GRADUATED COLLEGE, SO SHE'S PROBABLY ABOUT 22.

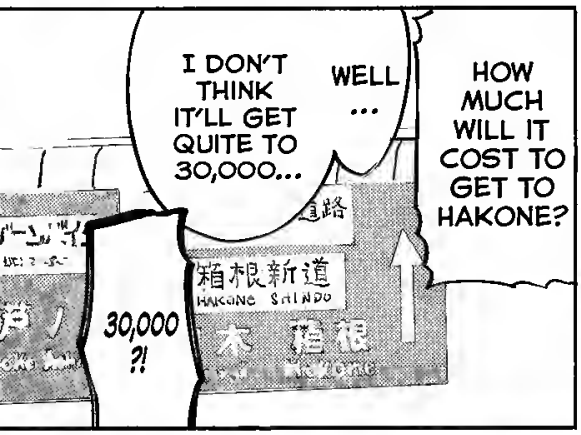
I KNOW HER LINE I.D.!
Wow...
HUH...
IS THAT SO...
FROM MODELING
MOVED UP
I EVEN HEARD SHE USED TO MODEL A LITTLE BACK IN THE DAY!
SLUMP
Twenty-two
SHE'LL FIND OUT YOU USED TO BE A GANGSTER!
NOW, NOW, NOW!
YOU WERE?!
BLUSH
IF I ASKED SOME OF MY FRIENDS FROM BACK HOME, THEY'D TAKE CARE OF HER IN A SNAP.
You know, from Kisarazu.
WANT ME TO LURE HER SOMEWHERE AND BEAT HER UP?
SEE YOU LATER!
WHAM
...I'LL KILL THE BASTARD!!
...TO SLIP HIS NEW PET INTO A JOB...
IF THAT GIRL AND THE PRODUCER REALLY ARE BANGING, I'LL MAKE THEM PAY...
IF HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT STUPID, BLONDE MODEL COMPLAINING ABOUT MY SCRIPT...
OH... BUT...

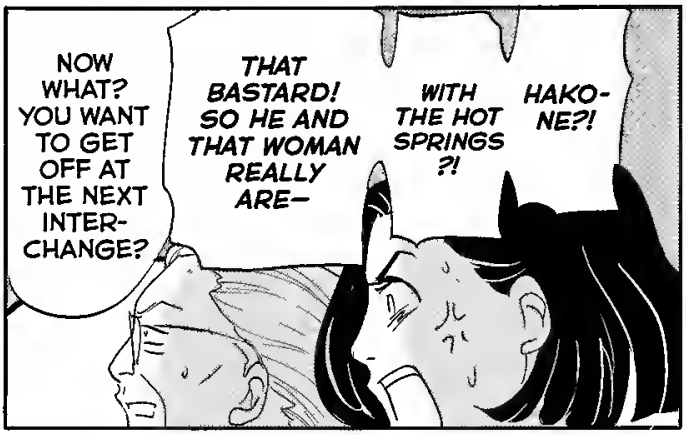

SPARKLE
ピチ
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
ピチ
SPARKLE
HUH?!
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER, RINKO?
OH. OF COURSE.
...AND HE JUST WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!
THAT NEW ACTOR, KEY, DIDN'T LIKE YOUR SCRIPT ...
WAIT, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, RINKO DEAR!
Jeez! This is the problem with models!
I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND MY REPLACE-MENT.
SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
PRO-DUCER ...
ピチ
SNAP
ピチ
SNAP
WE JUST GOT IN ANOTHER PROJECT I'D LIKE YOU TO HANDLE FOR US...
OH, HEY! THIS IS PERFECT !!
AH, HERE IT IS!!
HUH ?!
RUSTLE
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MS. SAWADA, OUR NEW SCRIPT-WRITER. SHE'S A TOTAL ROOKIE AND, WELL, YOU KNOW, BUT..
OH, SURE! OF COURSE !
PRODUCER! LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF!
NICE TO MEET YOU-

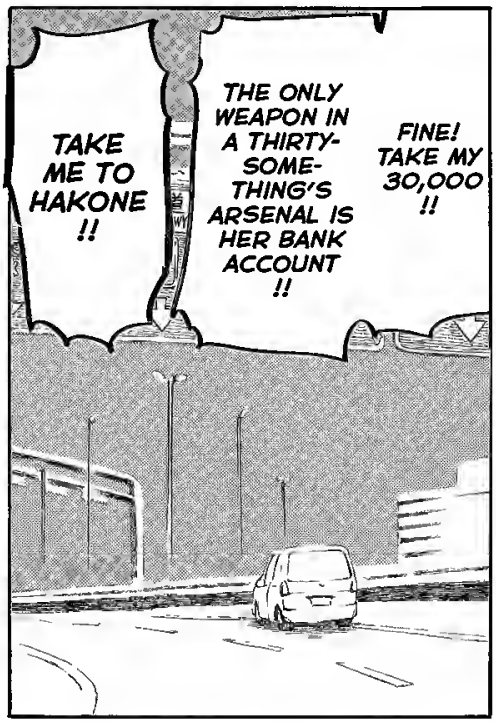
PLOP
BASED ON A TRUE STORY!!
TROUBLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
"THE DEVIL'S GOSSIP CIRCLE"
THE STORY OF RYOKO THE HOUSEWIFE
(WORKING TITLE)
SHK
No, no!
You did. You definitely did.
I never said that!
Oh, come on!
Ahahaha! Oh lord!
STARE

TAXI!
CREAK
WHOOSH
EEK!
EEK!
KER-CHUNK
SLAM
DRIVER! FOLLOW THAT CAR!!
HUH?!
WHAT CAR? YOU MEAN THE BLACK ONE?
VROOOM
VROOOOM
FOLLOW THEM! I SAID, FOLLOW THEM !!
SPARE ME THE CHITCHAT! HURRY! LOOK, TAKE THIS RIGHT!!
I USED TO GET PAPARAZZI IN HERE ALL THE–
BOY, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE DONE THIS.

GOOD LORD! HOW FAR ARE THEY GOING?!
MA'AM ...
I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO HAKONE.
We've passed everything else...
ヴォォォォ
YEAH, GO FOR IT!!
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP FOLLOWING THEM, MA'AM?
HUH?!
THEY'RE TAKING THE FREEWAY?!
SHUTO EXPWY
入口

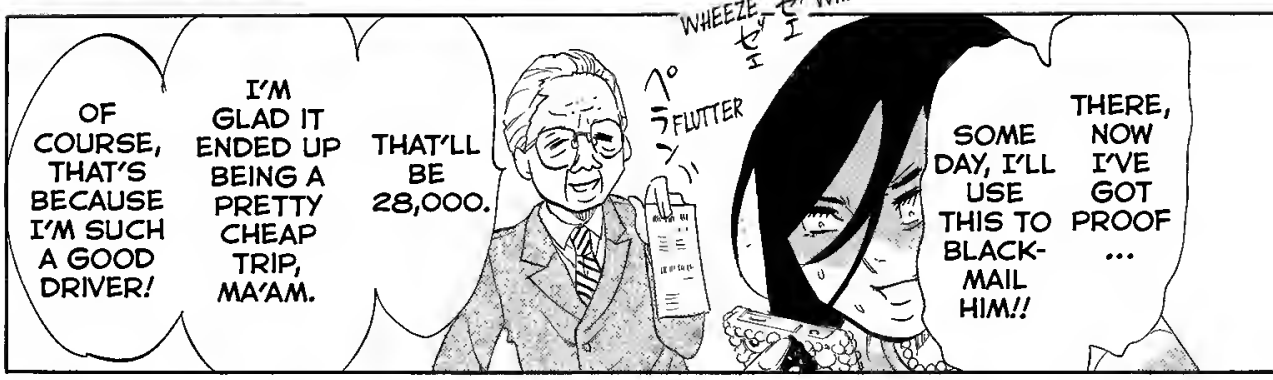

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO GET TO HAKONE?
WELL ...
I DON'T THINK IT'LL GET QUITE TO 30,000...
30,000 ?!
箱根新道
HAKONE SHINDO
箱根
HAKONE

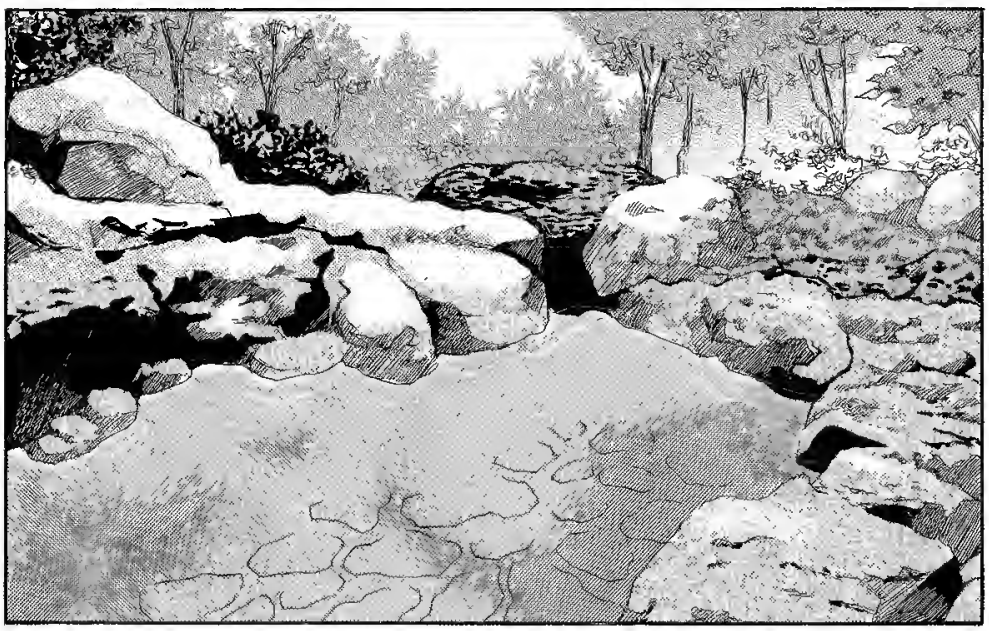

NOW WHAT? YOU WANT TO GET OFF AT THE NEXT INTERCHANGE?
THAT BASTARD! SO HE AND THAT WOMAN REALLY ARE—
WITH THE HOT SPRINGS ?!
HAKONE?!

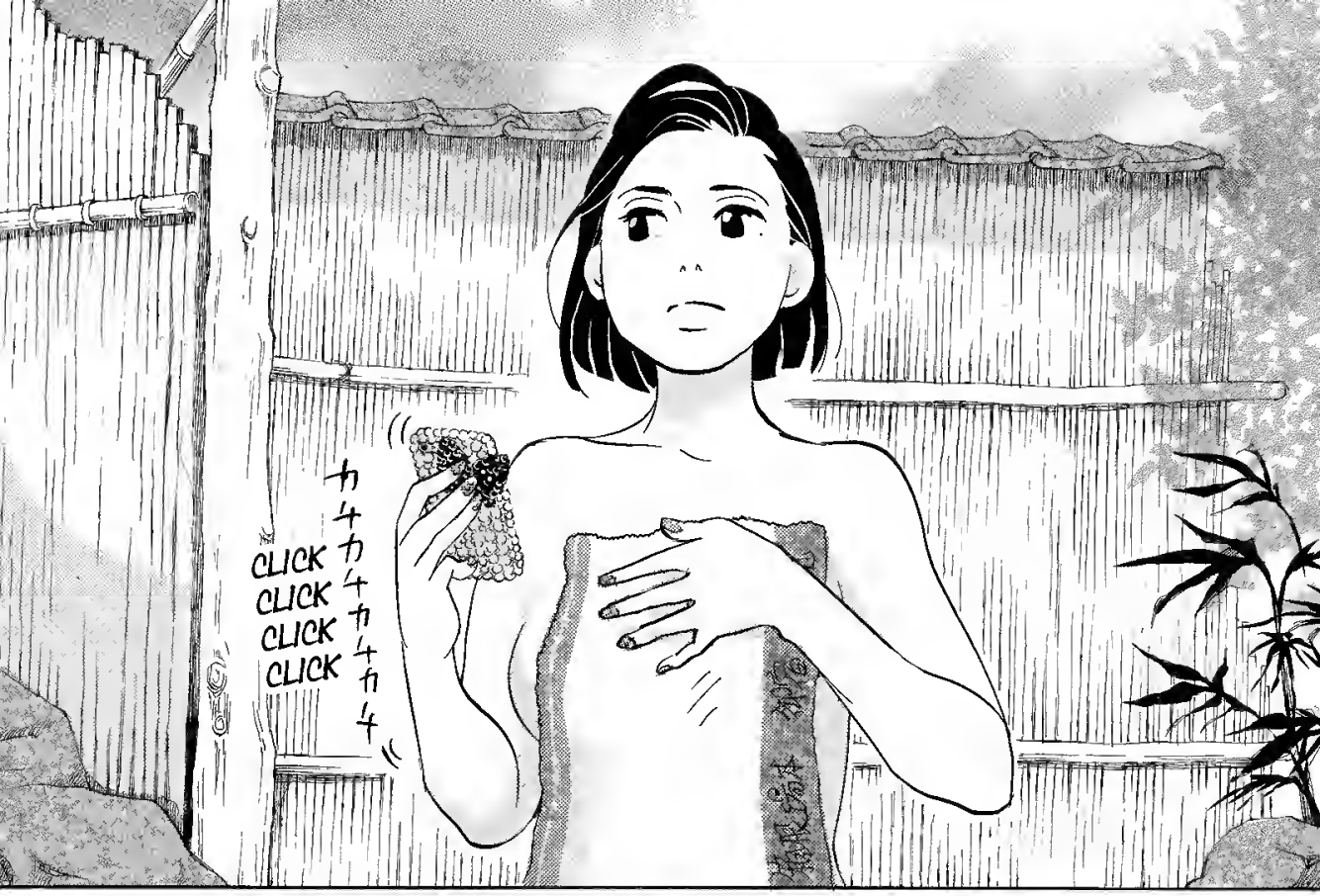

TAKE ME TO HAKONE !!
THE ONLY WEAPON IN A THIRTY-SOMETHING'S ARSENAL IS HER BANK ACCOUNT !!
FINE! TAKE MY 30,000 !!

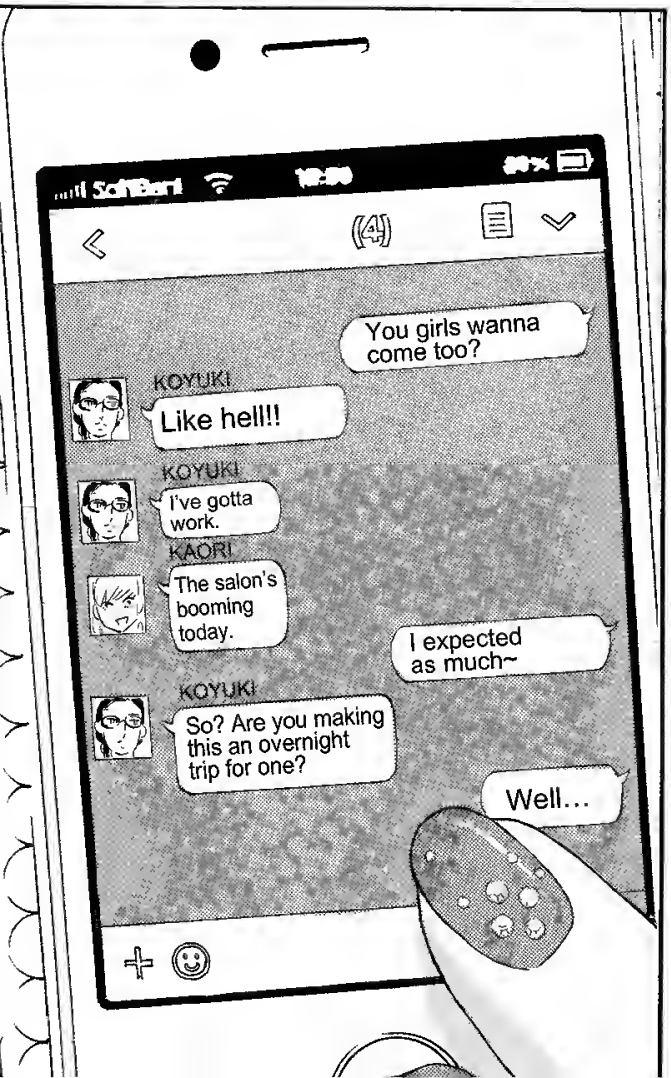
UGH... 30,000, EH?!
BUT IF I DON'T SEE IT FOR MYSELF AND TAKE SOME PHOTOS FOR PROOF, MY PRIDE AS A SCRIPT-WRITER WON'T BE SATISFIED.

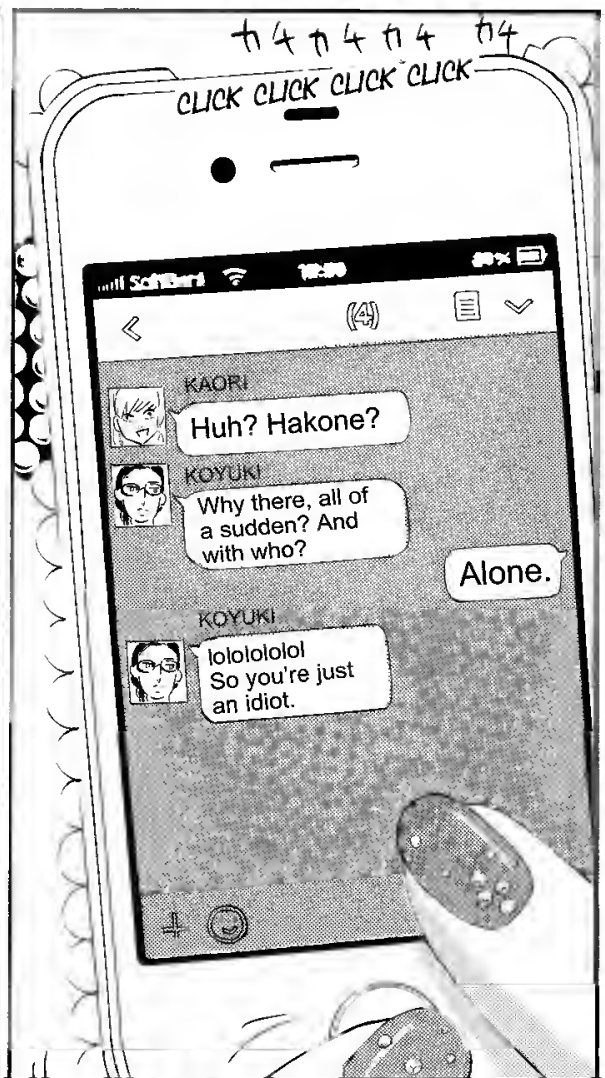
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
パシャ
CUDDLE
イチャ
CUDDLE
イチャ


OF COURSE, THAT'S BECAUSE I'M SUCH A GOOD DRIVER!
I'M GLAD IT ENDED UP BEING A PRETTY CHEAP TRIP, MA'AM.
THAT'LL BE 28,000.
WHEEZE ゼェ
WHEEZE ゼェ
FLUTTER ペラン
THERE, NOW I'VE GOT PROOF ...
SOME DAY, I'LL USE THIS TO BLACK-MAIL HIM!!




カチカチカチカチ
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK


You girls wanna come too?
KOYUKI
Like hell!!
KOYUKI
I've gotta work.
KAORI
The salon's booming today.
I expected as much~
KOYUKI
So? Are you making this an overnight trip for one?
Well...


カチカチカチカチ
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
KAORI
Huh? Hakone?
KOYUKI
Why there, all of a sudden? And with who?
Alone.
KOYUKI
lolololololol
So you're just an idiot.

SPLISH
ザッ
(4)
I did spend ¥28000 on the taxi, so it'd be a waste to just come right home…
I'm gonna enjoy the hot springs.
KAORI
Are you for real? Lolololol
KOYUKI
You are such an idiot! Lolololol
SIGH…
はぁ…
I NEVER THOUGHT …
…I'D BE RUINED BY A LITTLE UNDER-THE-SHEETS NEGOTIATING FROM A NO-TALENT ROOKIE TEN YEARS MY JUNIOR.

I KNOW THIS IS A DIRTY INDUSTRY ...
...BUT SCREEN-WRITING IS A CORE, CONTENT-GENERATING ROLE...
...SO I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT AS LONG AS I DID GOOD WORK, EVERYTHING WOULD TURN OUT FINE.
OH, BUT...
MAYBE THAT GIRL IS BOTH YOUNG AND TALENTED.
SHE CAN WRITE IN A DIFFERENT STYLE THAN ME...
...WITH A POINT OF VIEW THAT ONLY A YOUNG GIRL HAS...
A SCRIPT THAT DOESN'T SUCK...
...THAT EVEN HE'LL ACCEPT.
SPLISH
ポツン…

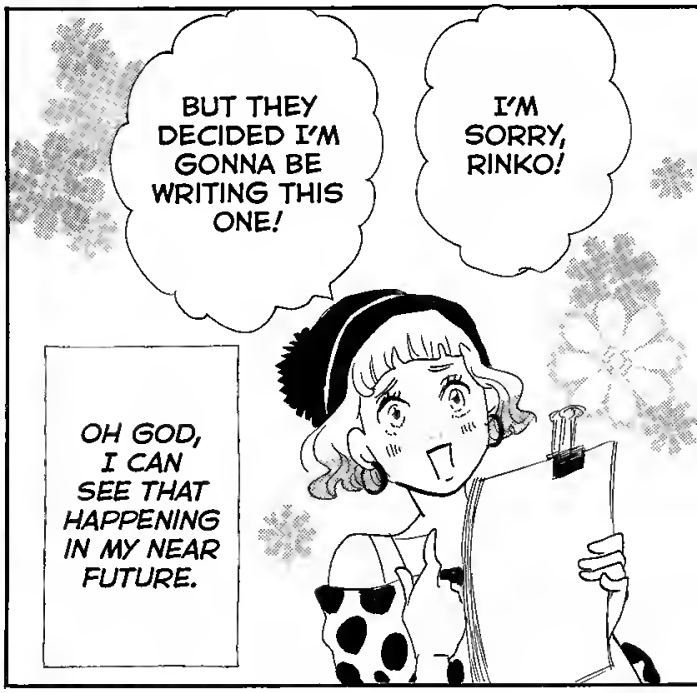
...EVEN MAMI WILL START GETTING WORK, JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE AN ITEM...

...AND HE BECOMES A PRODUCER ...

AND IF SHE BECOMES MR. HAYASAKA'S GIRLFRIEND ...

I DON'T EVEN STAND A CHANCE.

IF A YOUNG, CUTE, TALENTED GIRL ALSO USES HER SKILLS IN THE BEDROOM...



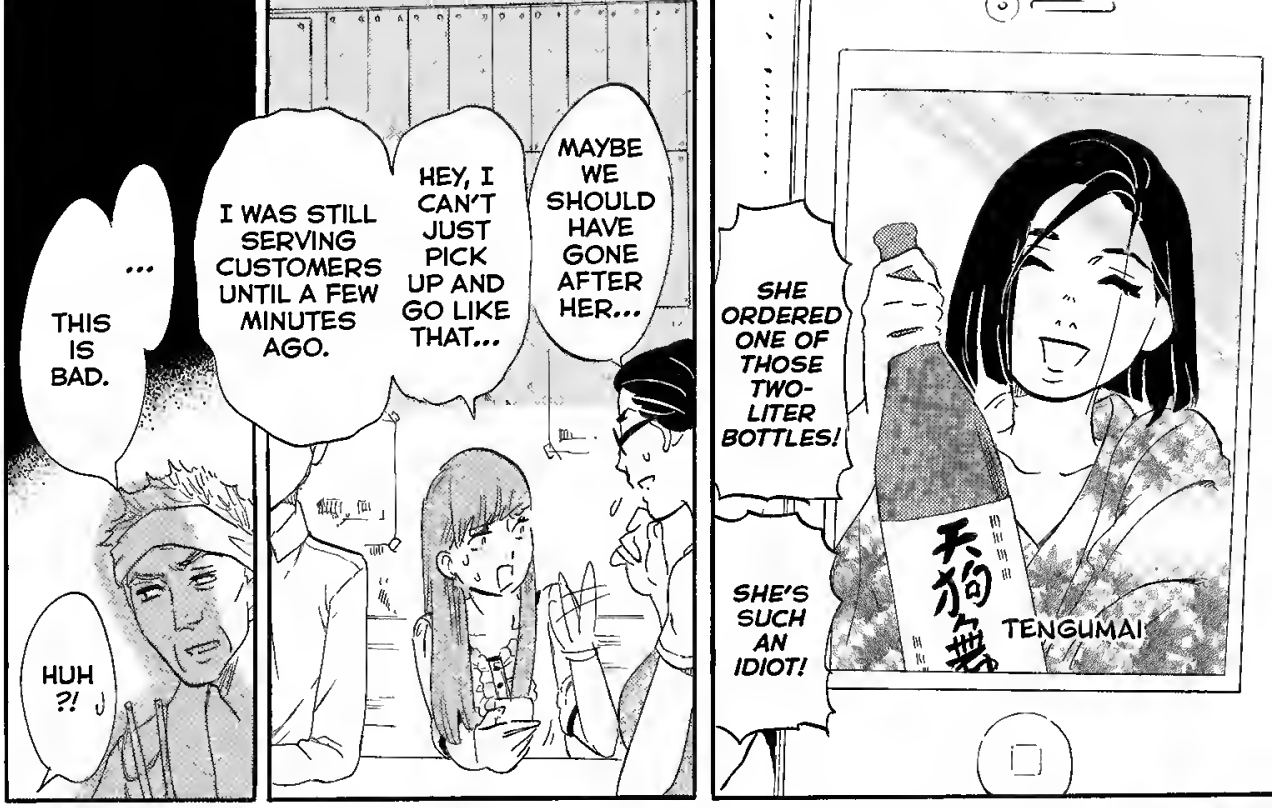
IT'S ALL THAT SHITTY BLONDE MODEL'S FAULT!
HE STARTED IT!!
YOU CAN'T MESS WITH ME LIKE THIS AND GET AWAY WITH IT, PUNK!!
SPLASH
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT WAS HIM COMPLAINING ABOUT MY SCRIPT THAT CREATED AN OPENING FOR THIS WOMAN TO SLIP IN...
...YOU KNOW ...
GLUB GLUB GLUB
THAT BASTARD ...
HE'LL NEVER SELL!! IN FACT,
I HOPE HE GOES BUST!!
I HOPE HE DISAP-PEARS !!
I HOPE HE ENDS UP OUT ON THE STREET !!
YAAAARGH!!
BOOM

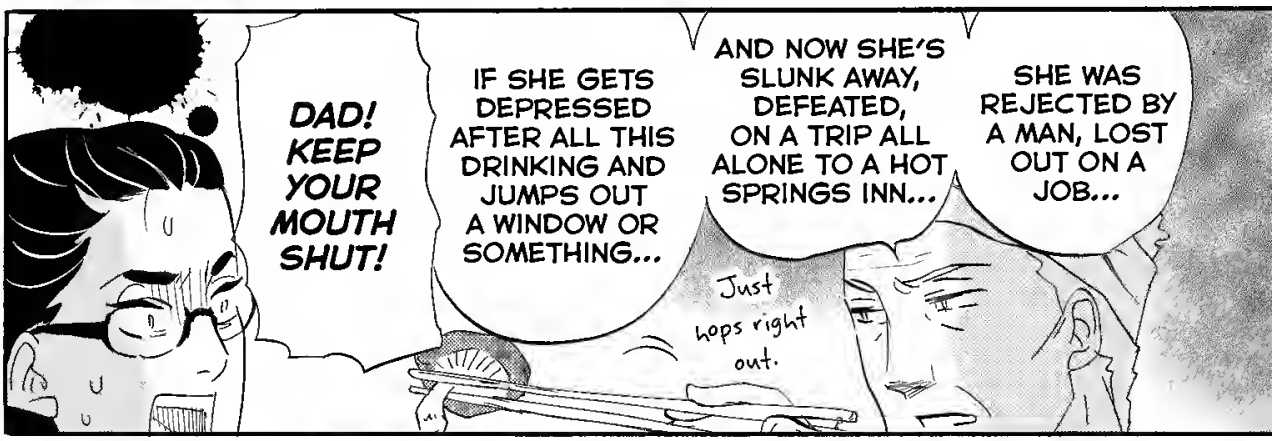
YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH!
A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN'S ONLY WEAPON IS HER BANK ACCOUNT !!
THIS IS A REWARD FOR MYSELF!!
HAHA HAHA
I ORDERED THE MOST EXPENSIVE, TOP-SHELF SAKE IN THE PLACE!!
It's over 10,000?
CLICK CLICK CLICK
AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY PHONE, DRINKING ALONE ISN'T SO LONELY!
I'm drinking by myself in Hakone...
Top-shelf now!
LOL
CLICK
酒処

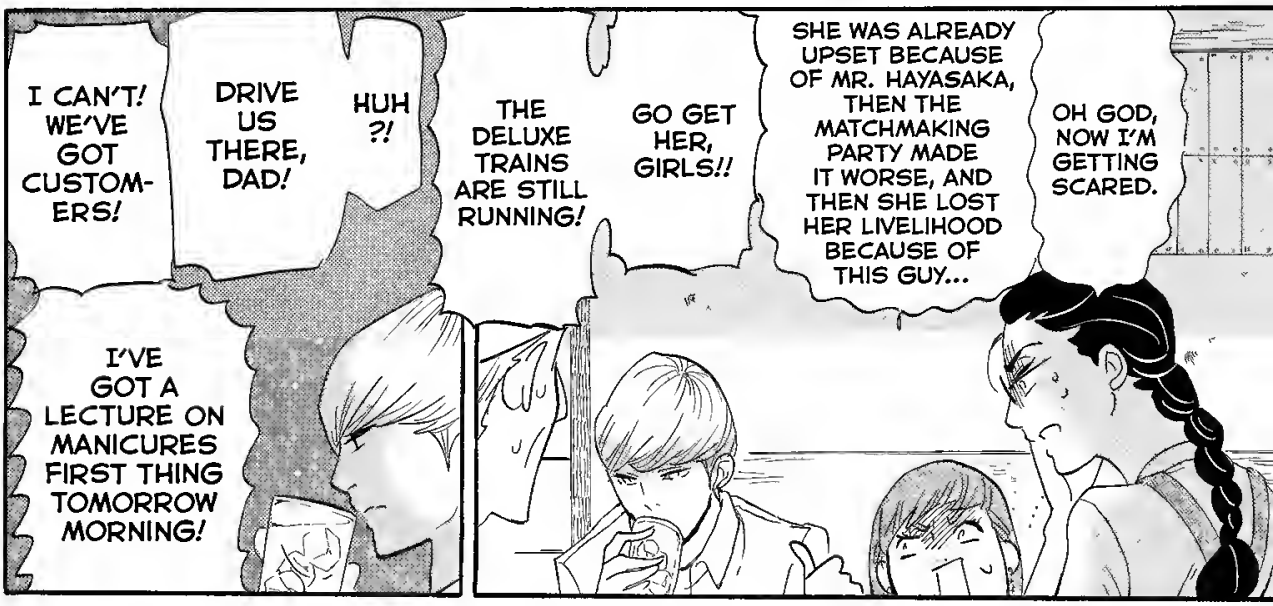
...DO YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY?

ALL I SAID IS THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE IN IT BECAUSE IT WAS BORING.
HEY, I NEVER TOLD THEM TO CHANGE IT.
...THIS STARTED WHEN YOU TOLD THEM TO CHANGE THE SCRIPT ...
IT'S YOUR FAULT ...
HHAD
YIKES!
CHECK IT OUT! THIS LOOKS BAD!

IS RINKO ...
...SERIOUSLY DRINKING ALONE AT AN INN?
AND YOU KNOW SHE GETS TOTALLY WASTED WHEN SHE DRINKS SAKE.
SHE GOES ON BENDERS ...

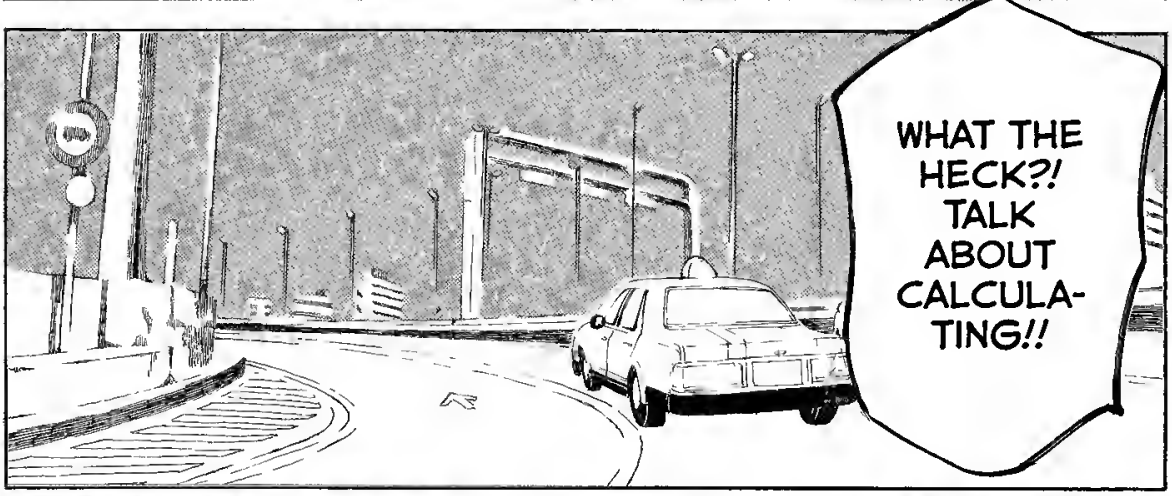

...
THIS IS BAD.
HUH ?!
I WAS STILL SERVING CUSTOMERS UNTIL A FEW MINUTES AGO.
HEY, I CAN'T JUST PICK UP AND GO LIKE THAT...
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER HER...
SHE ORDERED ONE OF THOSE TWO-LITER BOTTLES!
天狗舞
TENGUMAI
SHE'S SUCH AN IDIOT!


DAD! KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
IF SHE GETS DEPRESSED AFTER ALL THIS DRINKING AND JUMPS OUT A WINDOW OR SOMETHING...
AND NOW SHE'S SLUNK AWAY, DEFEATED, ON A TRIP ALL ALONE TO A HOT SPRINGS INN...
SHE WAS REJECTED BY A MAN, LOST OUT ON A JOB...
Just hops right out.


I CAN'T! WE'VE GOT CUSTOMERS!
DRIVE US THERE, DAD!
HUH ?!
I'VE GOT A LECTURE ON MANICURES FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING!
THE DELUXE TRAINS ARE STILL RUNNING!
GO GET HER, GIRLS!!
SHE WAS ALREADY UPSET BECAUSE OF MR. HAYASAKA, THEN THE MATCHMAKING PARTY MADE IT WORSE, AND THEN SHE LOST HER LIVELIHOOD BECAUSE OF THIS GUY...
OH GOD, NOW I'M GETTING SCARED.

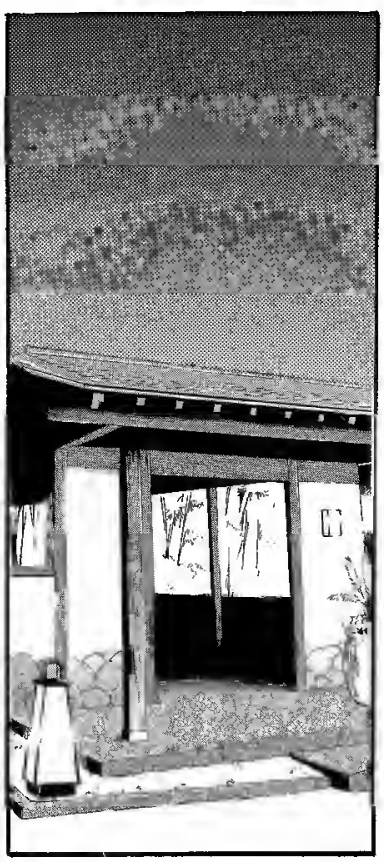
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY FROM THIS!
IT'S YOUR FAULT RINKO—
I'LL GO.
HUH?!
POPS.
THE CHECK.
THUNK
I'M OFF TOMORROW, ANYWAY.
STOMP
スタスタ
STOMP
...
HUH?!
THUNK
I'LL GO AND CONFISCATE THAT TWO-LITER BOTTLE.

IF A SCREENWRITER KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE OF HIM, IT'D END HIS ENTERTAINMENT CAREER PRETTY QUICK.
MUST BE SELF-DEFENSE.
...
SERI-OUSLY?

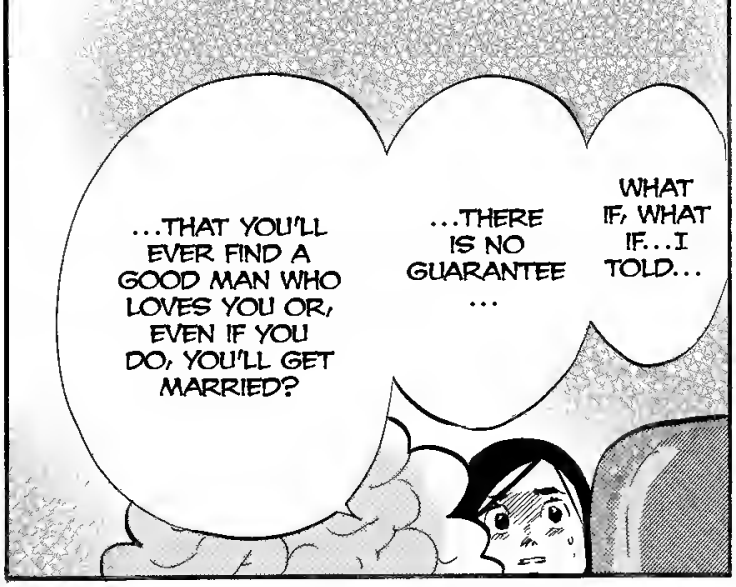

WHAT THE HECK?! TALK ABOUT CALCULA-TING!!

AHHH ...
THIS TENGU-MAI...
SHAKE
SHAKE
...IS GOOD STUFF...

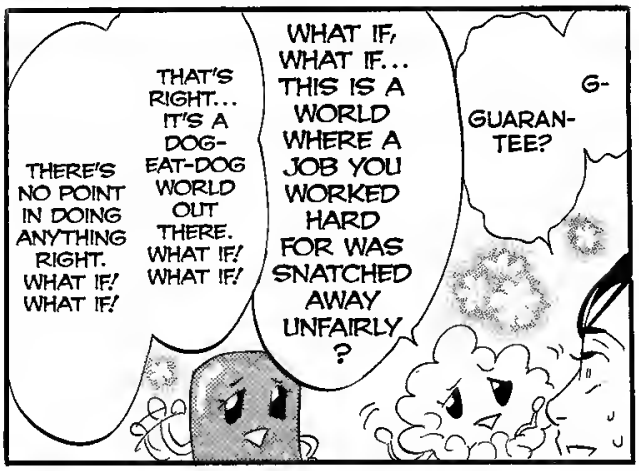
WEEE!
ドボ
BLUB
ドボ
BLUB



IF I CAN SEE YOU TWO, THAT MUST MEAN I'M PRETTY DRUNK, HUH? HA HA HA!
OHHH, THERE YOU ARE.
GOSH...
I'm not on the inn's menu, so I had to come in through the window. What if! What if!
THUNK
ガラ
HEY, STUPID.
RISE
YOU'RE DRINKING WAY TOO MUCH! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!!
OUT-SIDE.
YOU LOOK.
RINKO. WHAT IF.
HUH?
She's got a squid strip hanging out of her mouth.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN USED TO BEING ALONE, HAVEN'T YOU?
PARTYING BY YOUR-SELF ON A SOLO JOURNEY ...
YEAH! PARTY FOR ONE!
THE MOON IS SO BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
OH, IT'S A FULL MOON. HOW PRETTY.
ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...
...DRINKING ALONE WHILE YOU GAZE AT THE MOON? WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
OH, NO, NO, NO! OF COURSE NOT. NOT A CHANCE.
AT SOME POINT, A GREAT GUY WHO LOVES ME WILL SHOW UP!


...THAT YOU'LL EVER FIND A GOOD MAN WHO LOVES YOU OR, EVEN IF YOU DO, YOU'LL GET MARRIED?
...THERE IS NO GUARANTEE ...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...I TOLD...

HUH ?!
WHOOSH
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... HE NEVER DOES.


THERE'S NO POINT IN DOING ANYTHING RIGHT. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD OUT THERE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THIS IS A WORLD WHERE A JOB YOU WORKED HARD FOR WAS SNATCHED AWAY UNFAIRLY ?
G-
GUARAN-TEE?

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THERE'S NO GUARAN-TEE?
LISTEN TO ME.

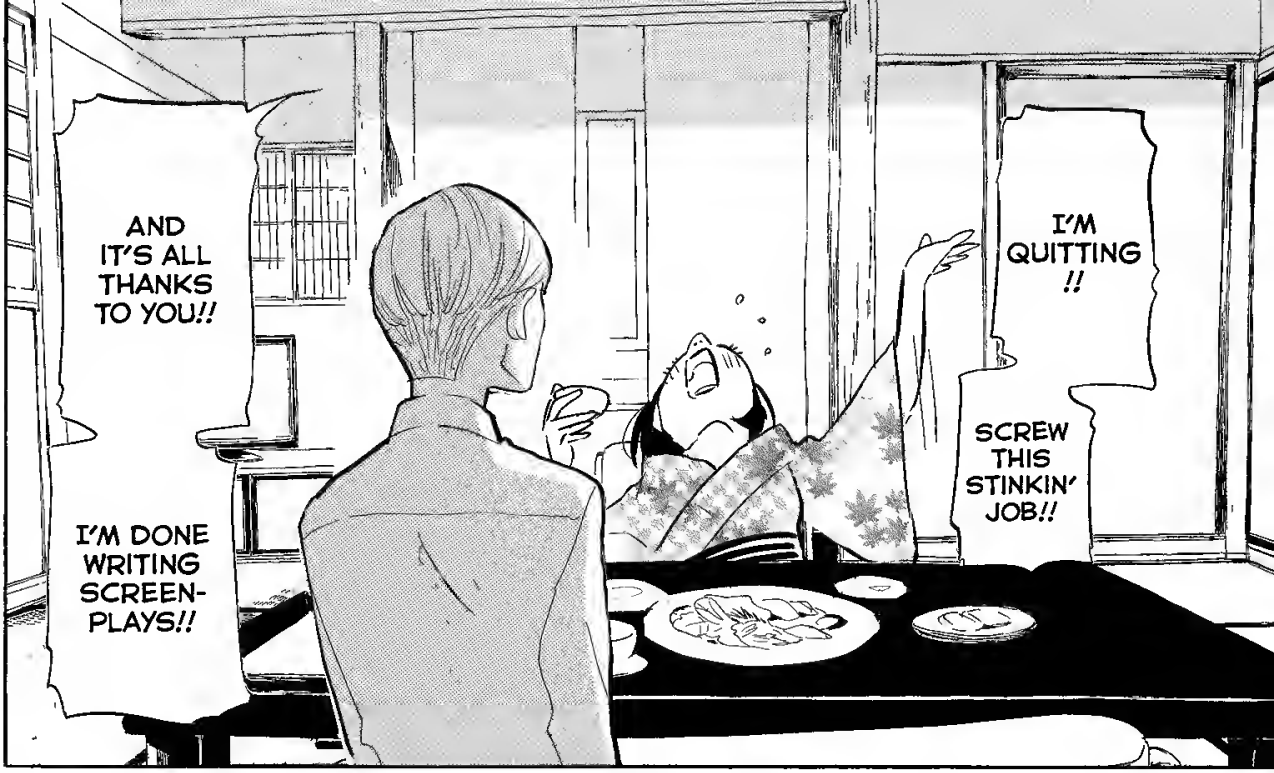
...AND FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND BEAUTY ?!!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...IT'S TRUE THAT THE ONLY IMPORTANT THINGS ARE MONEY AND CONNEC-TIONS...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...TALENT COUNTS SO LITTLE IT COULD BLOW AWAY IN THE WIND?
WAVE
WAVE
SCREEN-PLAY
WON-DER-FUL
SHRRRP

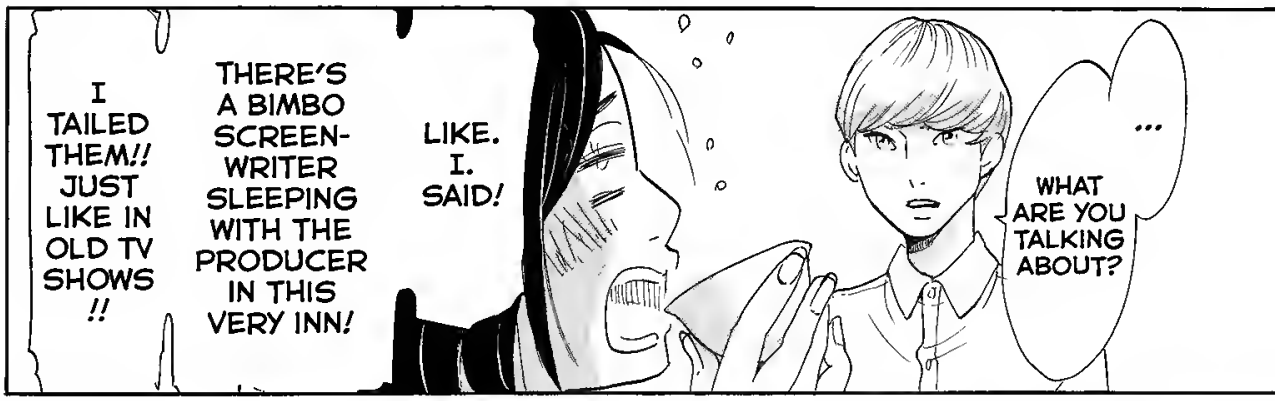
TALENT DOESN'T COUNT FOR SQUAT!! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
BUT... I'VE STILL GOT MY TALENT ...
RARGH!

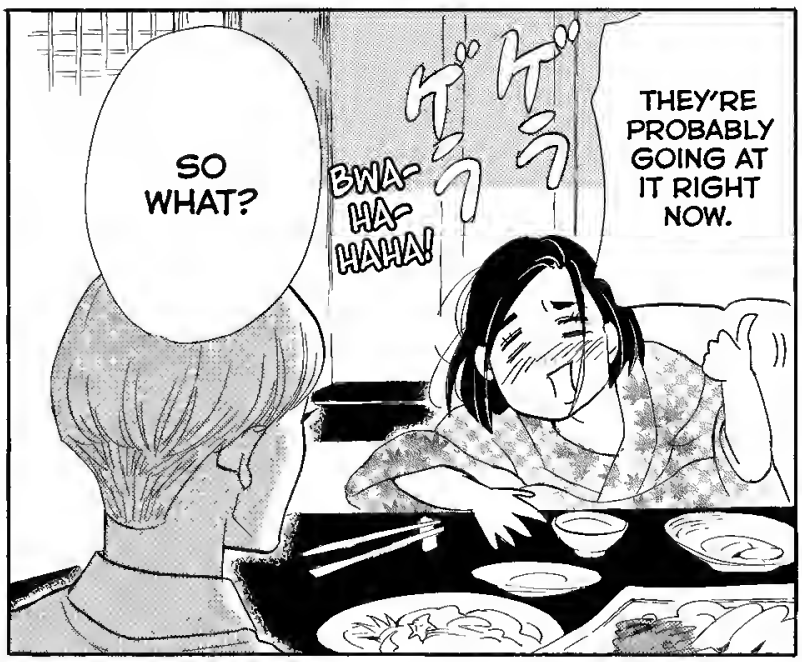
I'LL QUIT THIS JOB...
STREAM
I'LL ... QUIT ...
WHAP
RATTLE
THEN ... ...
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE TOUCHING SHOWS AND MOVIES THAT PEOPLE COULD ENJOY.
THAT WAS NEVER MY GOAL.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THAT'LL BE TOUGH IF YOU'RE ONLY MAKING WEB SERIES AT AGE 33?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU CAN, BECAUSE AT YOUR AGE IT WOULDN'T GET YOU THE JOB ANYWAY?
SLEEP WITH SOMEONE I DON'T LOVE...
BECAUSE I COULD NEVER DO THAT.
ガ
THUNK
I'M TIRED OF IT ALL...
I HATE THIS...
I'LL QUIT AND GET A NORMAL JOB!!
I'LL QUIT WRITING SCRIPTS!!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'LL ONLY GET PART-TIME WORK AT YOUR AGE?

WHERE DO I SEND...
...THIS TAXI BILL...
...FOR 30150?
領収書 RECEIPT
TOTAL
合計 ¥30,150
STARE
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU ...
天狗舞
I'LL BE TAKING THAT.
TOP-SHELF TENGUMAI SAKE...
YOU REALLY WENT ALL OUT...
YEAH!
YOU CAN DRINK THAT, MISTER!
AND WE'VE GOT TONS OF SNACKS!
WHAM
WHAM

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
...
GULP
Yay! Cheers!
OH, GO FOR IT!!
YOU DRINK GOOD FOR A YOUNG GUY!!
THAT'S THE GOOD STUFF ALL RIGHT.
I COULD DRINK THIS ALL NIGHT.
TONIGHT'S ON ME!!
I'M GONNA USE UP ALL THE MONEY I MADE WITH THIS JOB!!
ORDER ANOTHER BOTTLE!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


I'M QUITTING !!
SCREW THIS STINKIN' JOB!!
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!!
I'M DONE WRITING SCREEN-PLAYS!!


...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LIKE. I. SAID!
THERE'S A BIMBO SCREEN-WRITER SLEEPING WITH THE PRODUCER IN THIS VERY INN!
I TAILED THEM!! JUST LIKE IN OLD TV SHOWS !!


SO WHAT?
BWA-HA-HAHA!
ゲラゲラ
THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING AT IT RIGHT NOW.

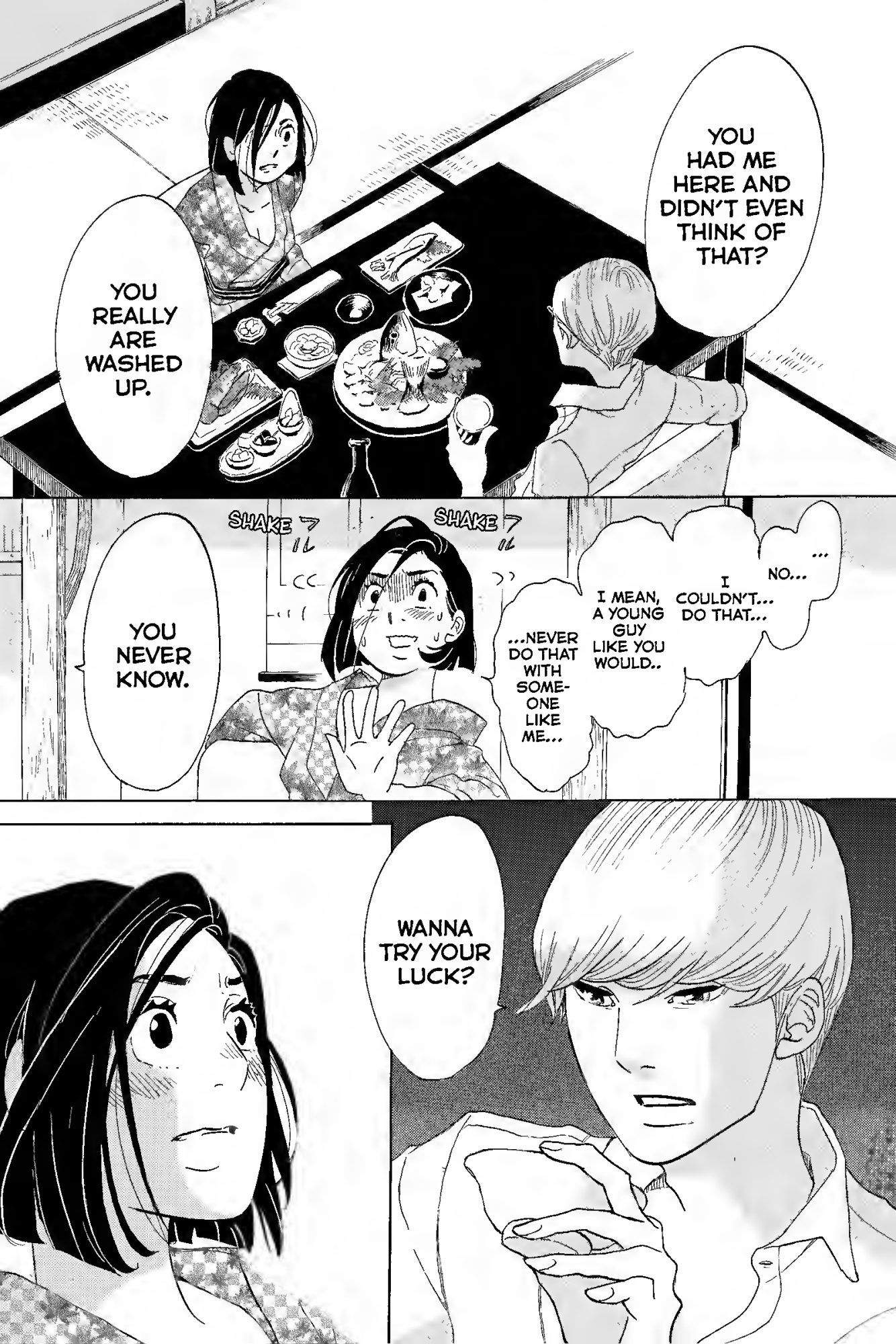
...THE TWO OF 'EM CAME IN HERE...
AND JUST LIKE YOU SAID...

I...
BE-CAUSE... THAT'S DIRTY...
BE...
UGH!
THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WHY DOES THAT MEAN YOU SHOULD QUIT WRITING?
I HATE THAT SORT OF THING...
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE SOME INNOCENT SCHOOL-GIRL?
YOU'RE A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN.
IT'S JUST SEX.
THAT'S LIKE A HANDSHAKE IN THIS INDUSTRY.
FREEZE

WHA ?!
AH!
I BET YOU DO IT TOO !!
WHO DID YOU SLEEP WITH TO GET AHEAD?! SOME GEEZER?!
WHO KNOWS ?
MAYBE I DID.
I'VE GOT NO REASON TO TELL YOU.
BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE IN THIS INDUSTRY.
NOT WITH THOSE BORING SCRIPTS WRITTEN BY A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WITH A SCHOOLGIRL'S SENSIBILITIES AND SHOJO MANGA ON THE BRAIN.
WAIT A SECOND ...
BORING?
THE ONLY SCRIPT OF MINE YOU'VE READ...
...IS THAT ONE, SINGLE SCRIPT FROM THE OTHER DAY!
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO READ.
YOU CAN'T TELL THAT FROM ONE SCRIPT!!
WOBBLE

THERE'S ...
...A LOT, LOT MORE THINGS... I'D RATHER WRITE...
BUT A SCREENWRITER AT MY LEVEL HAS TO DO WHAT THE HIGHER-UPS SAY... ALL WE CAN DO IS WRITE TO FIT THE CAST, EVEN IF WE DON'T LIKE IT...
THAT'S... THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU CAME ALONG AND COMPLAINED ABOUT MY SCRIPT, I GOT BUMPED OFF...
SO THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO-
THEN ...
ISN'T THIS YOUR CHANCE?
RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
IT'S ONLY A WEB SERIES, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT ONE OF THE ACTORS RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF YOU.
THE VERY ACTOR THAT GOT YOU KICKED OFF THE PROJECT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO...

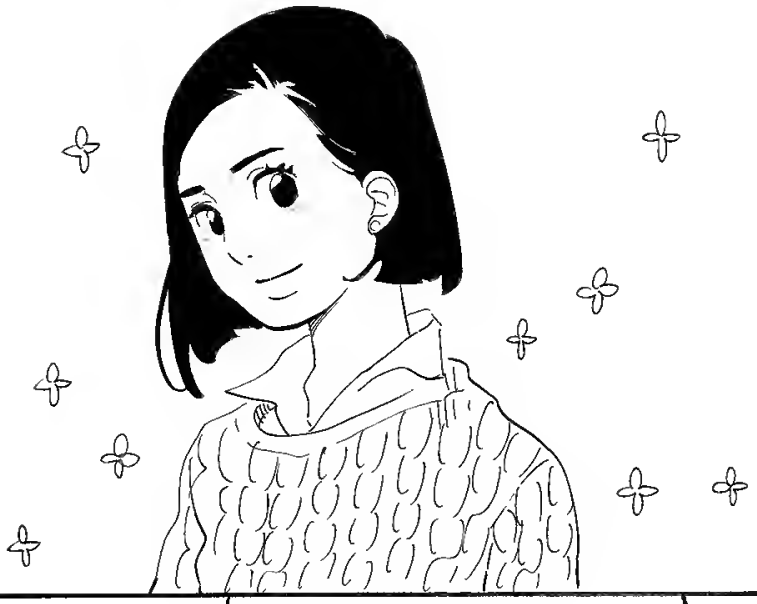
SLEEP WITH ME TO GET AHEAD.


YOU HAD ME HERE AND DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT?
YOU REALLY ARE WASHED UP.
SHAKE
SHAKE
...
NO...
I COULDN'T... DO THAT...
I MEAN, A YOUNG GUY LIKE YOU WOULD..
...NEVER DO THAT WITH SOME-ONE LIKE ME...
YOU NEVER KNOW.
WANNA TRY YOUR LUCK?

HUH ?!
HEY!!
ガ THUNK
ガシャ CRASH
ガシャ CRASH
WAI—

CRASH
ガシャン
GIVE IT A SHOT.

TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS (1) / END



TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS

BONUS STORY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING "TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS" VOLUME ONE.

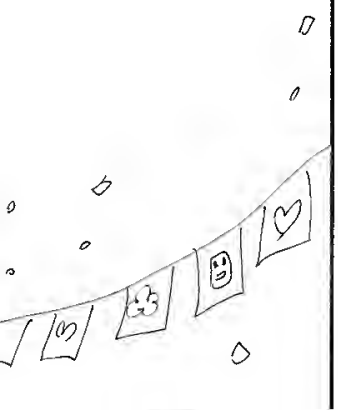
2014年 現在 PRESENT YEAR: 2014

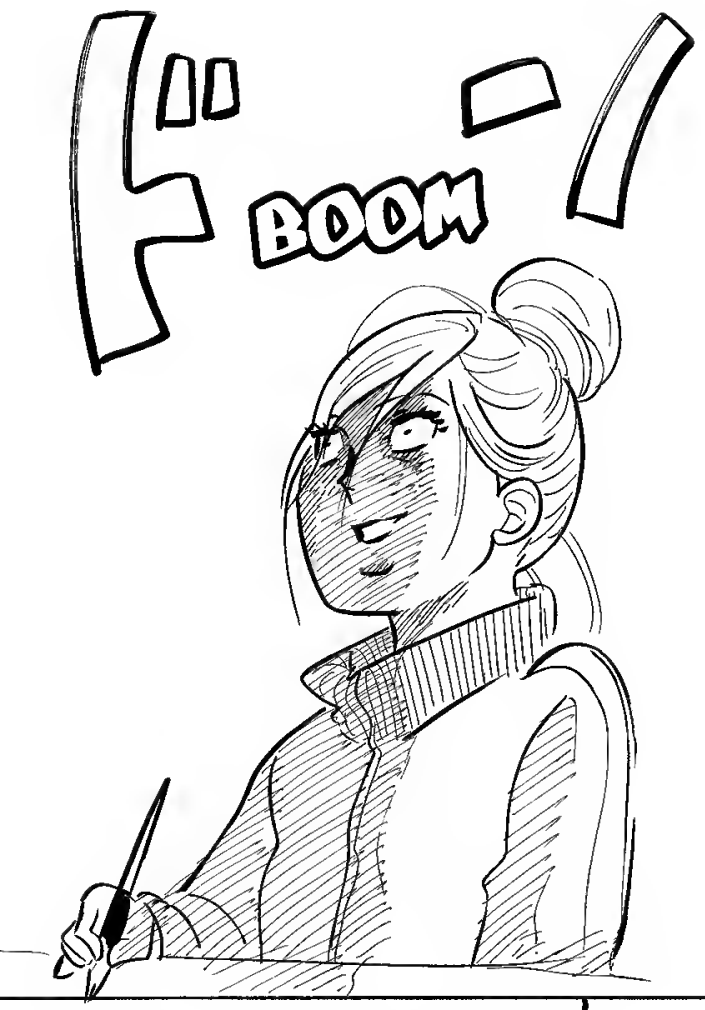
I AM AKIKO HIGASHIMURA, THE AUTHOR. I'M 38.

THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS COMIC STRUCK ME DURING THE WHOLE "HOSPITALITY FEVER" THAT, AS I'M SURE YOU ALL RECALL, WAS GOING ON BACK WHEN TOKYO WAS SELECTED AS THE HOST CITY FOR THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES.

WELL...

"INSPIRATION STRUCK ME" MAKES IT SOUND COOL, BUT... HONESTLY...





ALL I DID WAS DECIDE TO MAKE AN AWFUL COMIC ABOUT ALL MY THIRTY- AND FORTY-SOMETHING LADY FRIENDS WHO WERE IN SHOCK AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

I plan to spend New Year's in Paris.

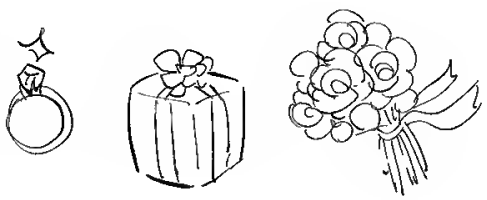
IN FACT, I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO WISH THEY COULD'VE LIVED THE CELEBRATED LIFE OF A SINGLE ARISTOCRAT— NEVER GETTING MARRIED AND ENJOYING THEIR CAREER WITHOUT BEING TIED DOWN.

I DON'T BELIEVE EVEN FOR A SECOND ...

...THAT "WOMEN HAVE TO GET MARRIED,"

OR "A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS DEPENDS ON HER MAN,"

OR "ANY WOMAN WHO DOESN'T GET MARRIED IS PITIFUL."



IN THE END, A LOT HAPPENED, AND WE TIED THE KNOT. BUT I STILL USUALLY FIND MYSELF THINKING THAT MARRIAGE IS OVERALL A LOSS FOR THE WOMAN. (THEY'VE GOTTA CHANGE THEIR NAME AND SUCH.)

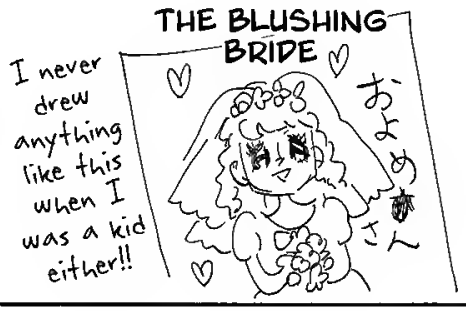
RECENTLY, I MARRIED AGAIN, BUT FOR A LONG TIME I THOUGHT "I'M TIRED OF MARRIAGE," AND RAN AWAY FROM IT, SAYING THINGS LIKE "NO MORE MARRIAGE, PLEASE! CAN'T WE JUST BE A NORMAL, HAPPY COUPLE WITHOUT GETTING MARRIED?"

PERSONALLY, MY FIRST MARRIAGE WAS A HUGE FAILURE. WE DIVORCED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, AND AFTERWARDS I REALLY STRUGGLED AS A SINGLE MOTHER FOR FIVE YEARS.

HAPPINESS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU GET FROM A MARRIAGE. IT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF...YOU KNOW? SOMEHOW. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING, RIGHT? IT'S YOUR OWN PROBLEM... I MEAN, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO STAY UNHAPPY AFTER THEY'RE MARRIED!!

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT, EVEN FOR A SECOND, THAT I'D BE MUCH, MUCH HAPPIER WHEN I WAS MARRIED!!

SO!!



THEY SAY THIS!!

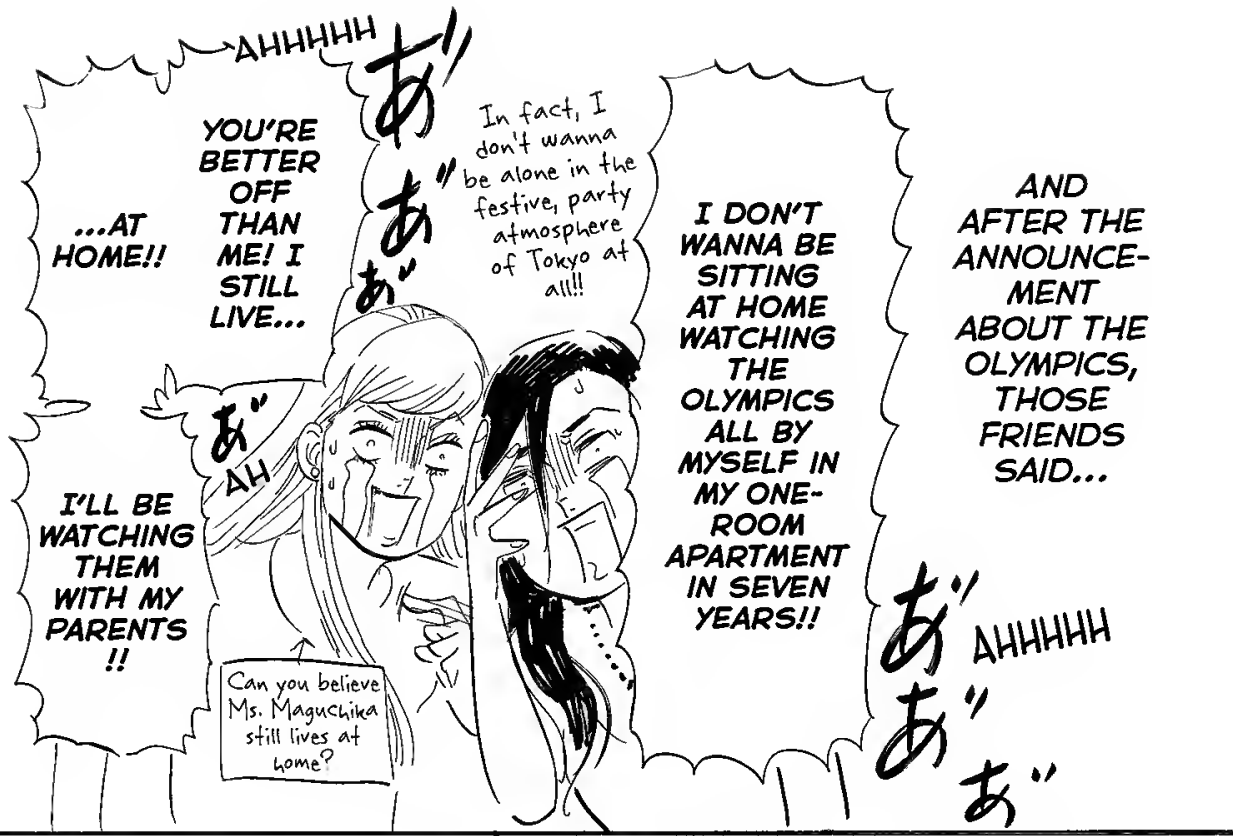
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME!!

THOSE PEOPLE!!

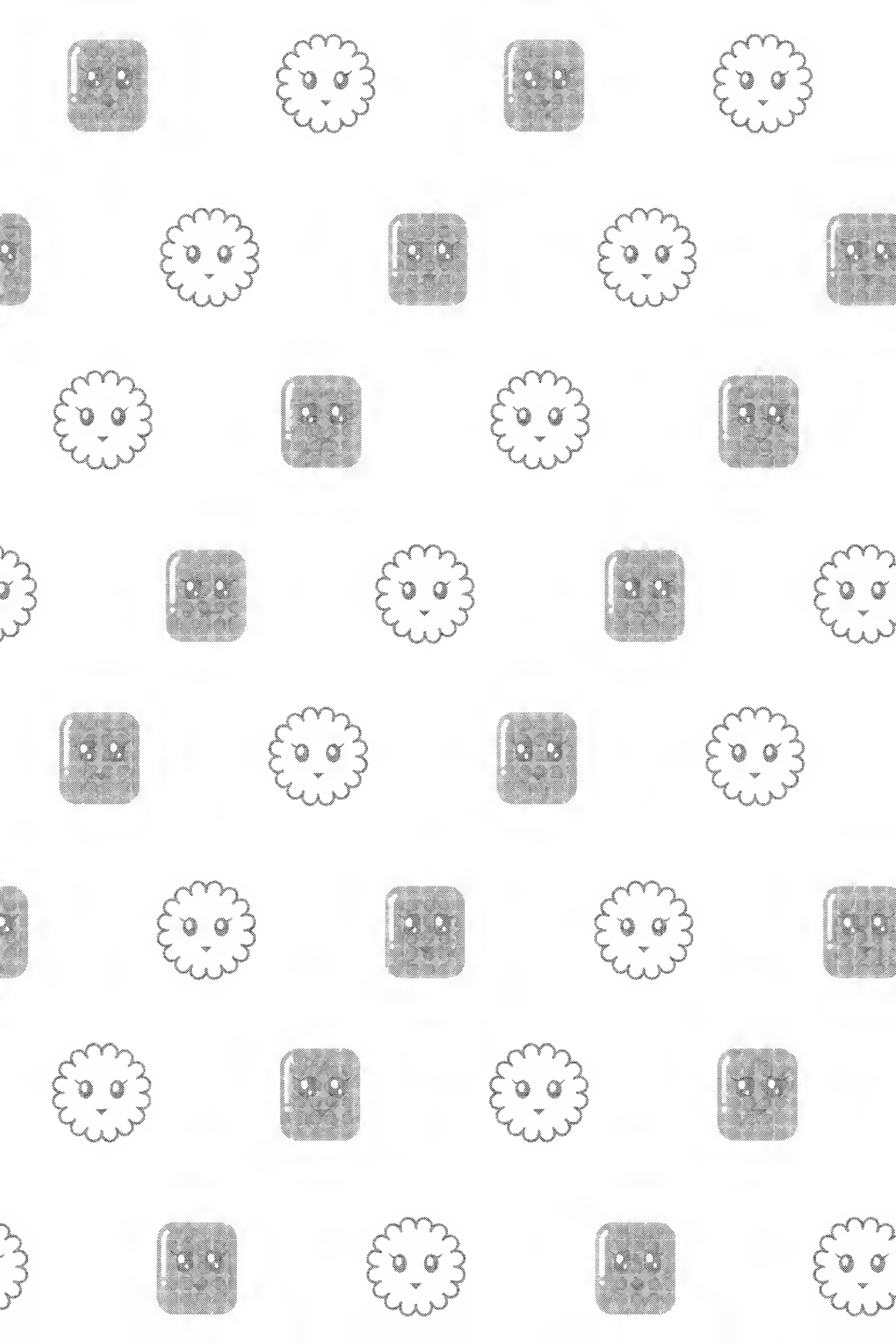
BUT!!

Please turn the page

STOMP STOMP
ME TOO.
ME TOO.
I WANNA GET MARRIED ...
I...I CAN'T GO ON ANY LONGER ...
AKKO ...
MY FRIENDS WHO SUDDENLY STARTED SPOUTING THIS STUFF (ESTIMATED TOTAL: 15)
THERE'S NO GOOD MEN AROUND !!
BUT !!
THEN START BY FINDING A BOY-FRIEND.
YARGH!!
You're so pretty ...
I WANNA GET MARRIED!! I WANT KIDS!!
NO!!
Ms. Yamaguchi Kaori or Maguchika for short.
I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT A GREAT CAREER GOING.
...YOU REALLY HAVE TO, YOU KNOW?
WAIT... I DON'T THINK ...
My model for the beautician
BEING ALONE ...
...TIRED OF IT...
I'M JUST ...
SLUMP
...
...TIRED OF LIVING ALONE.
I'M ...
AKKO ...
ANOTHER FRIEND SAYS...
HEHEH

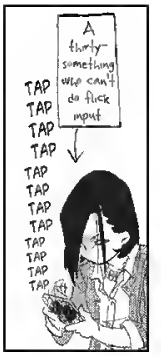

AHHHHH
あ〃
あ〃
あ〃
YOU'RE BETTER OFF THAN ME! I STILL LIVE...
...AT HOME!!
In fact, I don't wanna be alone in the festive, party atmosphere of Tokyo at all!!!
I DON'T WANNA BE SITTING AT HOME WATCHING THE OLYMPICS ALL BY MYSELF IN MY ONE-ROOM APARTMENT IN SEVEN YEARS!!
AND AFTER THE ANNOUNCE-MENT ABOUT THE OLYMPICS, THOSE FRIENDS SAID...
I'LL BE WATCHING THEM WITH MY PARENTS !!
あ〃
AH
Can you believe Ms. Maguchika still lives at home?
あ〃
AHHHHH
あ〃
あ〃

STOP YOUR DAY-DREAMING AND FIND A MAN!! I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS!!
THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND A HUSBAND WITHIN SEVEN YEARS, RIGHT?!
AND LET ME TELL YOU THIS!! YOU'RE NOT YOUNG ANYMORE, SO IT'S NOT GONNA BE AS EASY AS IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR TWENTIES!!
WHAM
...WAS MY SELF-IMPORTANT PROCLAMATION. WE'RE ALWAYS HAVING DRINKING NIGHTS LIKE THIS, AND I FINALLY GOT TIRED OF TRYING TO APPEAL TO THEIR GOOD SENSE (THEY'RE ALL YOUNGER THAN ME), SO I DECIDED TO JUST TURN IT INTO A COMIC... THAT'S ABOUT HOW IT HAPPENED.
Oh, and these two are my favorite snacks when I'm drinking.
END



Translation Notes

Tokyo Tarareba Girls: "Tarareba" means "What-if," like the "What-if" stories you tell yourself about what could be or could have been. The name is also taken from the names of the two food characters in the series, Tara (codfish milt) and Reba (liver) who always say "tara" and "reba" respectively at the end of their sentences in Japanese, referencing the "what-if" meaning of "tarareba."



Flick Input, page 17
[17.2]
A method of typing on Japanese smart phones in which, instead of repeatedly tapping a key to get to the desired alternate character, the user taps the key and then flicks their finger in a certain direction to get the desired character.

THE LAST ONE WAS BACK WHEN YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND CHEATED ON YOU, WHICH I THINK MAKES IT TWO YEARS AGO!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I DOUBLED THE NAKA IN MY HOPPY!
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE WE HAD A FOUR-ALARM ER?

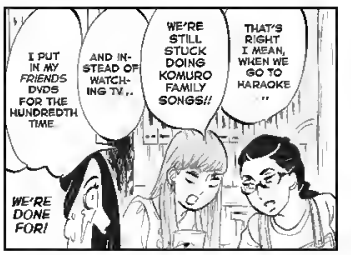
Hoppy & Naka, page 18
[18.2]
Hoppy: A cheap drink that contains less than 1% alcohol and tastes like beer.
Naka: Shochu, a more alcoholic drink (usually around 25% to 35% alcohol) mixed with the hoppy.

WHAT IF, WHAT IF...WE LOOK AHEAD SIX YEARS TO WHAT THESE THREE WILL BE DOING DURING THE NEXT OLYMPICS?
THE CODFISH MILT AND LIVER ARE TALKING!
AHA-HA!
THEY'LL BE DRINKING HERE LIKE ALWAYS! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

Tara and Milt, starting on page 23
[23.2]
In Japanese, the talking foods, codfish ("tara") milt and liver ("reba"), create a pun on the series title.

A GAGGLE OF WHAT-IF-STORY-TELLING WHAT-IF GIRLS
AND HE CALLED US...
THAT BASTARD! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD ONE, THOUGH! GIVE THE GUY A CUSHION!
YAMADA!

Yamada, page 53
[53.3]
A reference to the TV show "Shoten," a comedy program in which the host asks questions to a panel of traditional rakugo storytellers. When the host thinks their answer is funny, the panelist receives a cushion to sit on, brought out by Takao Yamada, a popstar from the '70s.

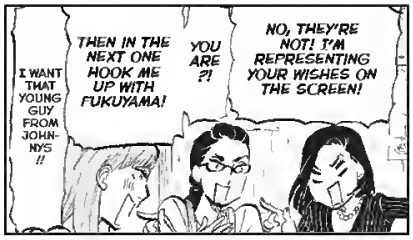

I PUT IN MY FRIENDS DVDS FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME...
AND INSTEAD OF WATCHING TV...
WE'RE STILL STUCK DOING KOMURO FAMILY SONGS!!
THAT'S RIGHT I MEAN, WHEN WE GO TO KARAOKE
WE'RE DONE FOR!

Komuro Family, page 96
[96.4]
A group of bands and musicians centered around their music producer and sometimes songwriter Tetsuya Komuro, who was very active in the mid-'90s.

Fukuyama, page 98

[98.3]

Likely Masaharu Fukuyama, a singer-songwriter, writer, actor, producer, and much more. He hit it big with a successful single in 1992 and has been active since. / Johnnys refers to a talent agency "Johnny & Associates" and the male entertainers that are trained/promoted there.


I WANT THAT YOUNG GUY FROM JOHN-NYS !!
THEN IN THE NEXT ONE HOOK ME UP WITH FUKUYAMA!
YOU ARE ?!
NO, THEY'RE NOT! I'M REPRESENTING YOUR WISHES ON THE SCREEN!

Hospitality Fever, page 167

[167.3]

This "fever" began after Christel Takigawa, a new presenter, gave a speech about Japan's special brand of "hospitality" as part of the selection process for the 2020 Olympics host city which helped Tokyo win the honor.

Tokyo Tarareba Girls 1

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